

GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

Volume 44b, No. 35, September 10, 2019 / Southside Baptist Church / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **The Grow in Grace Newsletter is a WEEKLY Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church; and is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. **"But**

grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Savior JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever.

WHEN YOUR ROPE BREAKS— Part III

Edited from **WHEN YOUR ROPE BREAKS**, by Stephen Brown

One of the key revelations in the book of Job is that the explanations Job's friends offered, (**attributing his problems to his sin**), were wrong! Job had not turned his back on God. Of course, he was not perfect and there were things he needed to learn about God— but his sufferings were not chastening for any particular sin. EVEN SO, it is common and NOT UNWISE, (in the midst of troubles/broken ropes), **that WE ASK:**

'Have I Done Something Wrong?' Answer: 'Not Necessarily!'

THE CHASTENING ROPE: Yes, ** broken ropes can sometimes be the result of God's chastening. (Heb. 12:5-11) At other times ** God allows us to experience broken ropes so that we can learn valuable lessons. (1 John 3:2) **FRANKLY**, ** 'ropes' sometimes break because we do something stupid! (Exodus 8:2-3; Exodus 8:9-10) ** Some broken ropes occur because that's the way the world works. (2 Samuel 12:13-14)

** Sometimes when our ropes break God is allowing us to face the natural consequences of our sin. (Gal. 6:7-8) **But at other times, there is no direct, absolute correlation** between breaking ropes and our breaking God's laws. **Consider:**

YOU DESERVE A LOT WORSE! (Romans 3:10-12) Think for a moment of all the bad things you have done in your life. What if God decided to balance the books right now? Where would you be? **You would be holding so many** broken ropes that you'd have to carry them off in a truck. What's the point? Broken ropes are **a good time to be amazed** at how merciful, kind, good, gracious, forgiving, and patient God has been; and to know that He can be trusted now!

ALSO, IN A FALLEN WORLD, Bad People Do Prosper! Your broken rope may or may not logically have something to do with your sin. But don't get tripped up with 'fairness'... because, presently, 'turkeys' do quite well sometimes, thank you! (Psalm 10:3-5a; Psalm 73) **Someday when God balances the books, just rewards will be given,** but only a foolish one would say that it works that way right now. There is one other thing to think about if you believe you're hurting because you've done something wrong— **there is glorious forgiveness** for those who **take God's point of view about sin and confess it!** (1 John 1:9)

HOW TO 'BE THERE' FOR HURTING PEOPLE!

Again, there may not be a direct, absolute correlation between other people's breaking ropes and their breaking God's law. (John 9:2-3) As Christians we must learn to relate to one another in tragedy as well as good times. (1 Cor. 12:12-13; 26-27)

In the early going, Job's friends did some things right: First,

they were there. (Job 2:11) **Second**, Job's friends were not only there but they were also quiet, at least at first. (Job 2:13) **Third**, when Job's rope broke, his friends didn't talk behind his back. Job's friends did another thing right. They allowed him to express his bitterness and anger. (Job 3:3, 10-11)

But remember: In being totally honest before God with our complaints, fears, doubts, confusions, anger, etc. — we must not forget to **then conclude with PRAISE TO GOD!** The Psalms model this!

Avoid What Job's Friends Did Wrong!

First, they tried to have an intellectual discussion with Job while he was holding his broken rope in his hand. (Job 4:1-5a)

Second, Job's friends took a superior position. (Job 5:1-2, 8, 17; Job 12:1-3a)

Third, the friends of Job presumed to speak for God. (Job 11:7, 10-11, 14-15) **Very interesting**— Zophar said that one couldn't explain God, but then he went about trying to explain Him. Presuming to speak for God on almost any issue is very dangerous!

Fourth, Job's friends assumed that what was happening to Job couldn't happen to them.

Fifth, Job's friends didn't do anything practical. They just debated.

KNOW THIS: Sometimes quiet, prayerful presence is the only thing and the powerful thing that can be done on behalf of suffering people. At other times, there are many practical 'Good Samaritan' type actions that can and should be taken, (Luke 10:30-37)

BEWARE OF DISCOURAGEMENT!

One of the greatest problems with broken ropes is the inevitable discouragement which follows. **How does one deal with discouragement?**

The great cloud of witnesses— one of the keys to dealing with discouragement is found in Hebrews 12:1-3. First, God tells us that we are surrounded by witnesses. (See Heb. 11:36-39)

The problem of guilt— the passage quoted from Hebrews 12 not only informs us that we have company, but also reminds us that we have been forgiven. (I John 1:9)

Power to endure— we are empowered to endure our broken ropes by ***“looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith!”*** (Hebrews 12:2; Matt. 14:28-32)

REALITY: The principle is the same no matter what the circumstances. Either Jesus is there or He isn't. Either Jesus does have something to do with your situation or He doesn't. If he doesn't you have a whole lot bigger problem than discouragement. But the Scripture is clear about His involvement. (Rom. 8:28)

Important Truth to Remember When We're Discouraged!

1. Remember the past. (Job 8:8-10) When you look at the history of God's people and when you look to your own past, you can see God's faithfulness and love. (Psalm 77:10-13)

2. Remember the facts. (Eph. 6:13-14) Please note that God through Paul said we need to depend on truth for support— **Facts are the reality, not our feelings about the facts. “Never doubt in the dark what God has taught you in the light!”**

3. Remember the process. When your rope is broken and you are discouraged, don't forget that God works out His purpose in the process. (Ps. 37:23-24)

4. Look to the future. Finally when your rope has broken and you are discouraged, don't forget the future. (I Cor. 15:51-54; John 14:1-2)

DOES MY FATHER KNOW I'M HURTING?

The Father knows— He allows/brings broken ropes because of His love.

The place broken ropes— it is not a pleasant place to visit, but everyone must go there at one time or another. The place of broken ropes will not always exist. It is only temporary, created by God's love.

Meeting God in the silence— It is hard to bear the silence of God; but in that place, and sometimes only in that place, you meet God. (Job 42:2-3, 5) After the silence, you will meet Him. And to meet God **sometimes** (if we were wiser, always) **makes your visit to the place of broken ropes** worth all the pain and suffering and hurt.

The Wounded Healer— when you meet God at the place of broken ropes, you will notice something else you didn't expect. You will notice **nail scars in His hands!** You will know that the reason He speaks with authority is because the place of broken ropes is His place too.

(I Peter 4:1; Heb. 5:8; Heb. 4:15) Thus, it is in the places and paths of 'broken ropes' that God accomplishes His greatest work!

GOT BROKEN ROPES? — GOD IS UP TO SOMETHING!

(Acts 2:22-23; Ps. 105:17-22)

Broken Ropes Have a Way of Revealing REALITY!

A broken rope will make you sensitive to others who have broken ropes. (I Peter 5:9) Also, most people first arriving at the place of broken ropes congregate with others who have recently arrived.

Gradually, two groups begin to emerge. (Luke 6:47-49)

In the place of broken ropes you will either be drawn to God;
OR you will walk farther and farther from Him.

THE BROKEN ROPES DON'T CAUSE EITHER.

As in Jesus' parable, you will find whether your house is built on rock or on sand. **BROKEN ROPES REVEAL THE TRUE CONDITION OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD.** RESPONSESS to broken ropes reveal separation between the group drawn to God and the group walking away.

When the storms of life are raging, all those who flee to Christ for refuge will go forth knowing, **"THEREFORE GOD IS NOT ASHAMED TO BE CALLED THEIR GOD, FOR HE HAS PREPARED A CITY FOR THEM"** (Hebrews 11:16).

Wait at His window with expectancy!"

Great Grace to all! / James Bell /
www.southsidegallatin.org

****** SHARE the Preaching of the Word of God!**

<http://www.southsidegallatin.org/>

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SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care Nursing Home. Meet at the front door at **5:15PM**.

WEDNESDAYS: → **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE**

→ Enter via **IRON STEPS**, side door.

WEDNESDAYS: → **6:30pm— Youth** Activities and Bible Study— enter, side double doors.

WEDNESDAYS: → **6:30pm— Young Family Prayer Time!** THIS IS a time of Bible study and prayer geared toward **families with children in the nursery and pre-K class**. Enter at double doors, under AWNING.

***** LADIES BIBLE STUDY:**

NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 @ 11:00am; Continuing in LUKE. ENTER at the back of the church building, [*DOUBLE Doors, under AWNING, open at 10:30am... re-locked at 11:10am*]

***** MEN's Fellowship/Bible Study:**

EVERY SATURDAY @ **8:00am: (STUDY: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN!)** ENTER AT THE back of Church building... DOUBLE DOORS, under the drive-thru awning. [**DOORS OPEN FOR FELLOWSHIP, Juice, coffee, Hardee's biscuits, & Donuts at 7:30am!**]

SUNDAY SERVICES, SEPTEMBER 15, 22, 29

9:30am— Sunday School Classes for All Ages

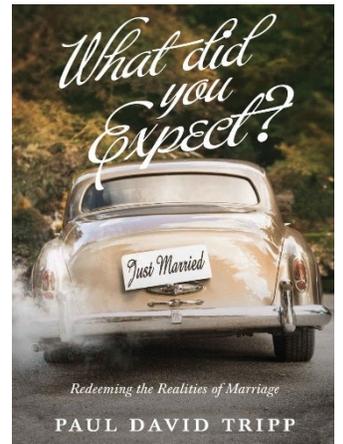
10:45am— Sunday Morning Worship Service

SPECIAL EVENTS ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAYS:

***** September 15 — LORD’S SUPPER at the close of the Morning Worship Service**

HOME GROUPS... some at 5pm

****** SEPTEMBER 22 — 6:00pm - 7:00pm, Church-wide EQUIPPING DISCIPLES by developing Christ-honoring Marriages: Paul David Tripp’s ‘WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? (Redeeming the Realities of Marriage)**



******* September 29 — SPECIAL EVENT — AN EVENING OF SCRIPTURE and PRAISE @ 6PM... in the Church auditorium. [Let Bradley and/or Adam know... if you would like to sing... or share a Scripture!]**

THEME: “I LOVE YOU, LORD... BECAUSE YOU FIRST LOVED ME!”

A vertical strip of stained glass on the left side of the image, featuring intricate geometric and floral patterns in shades of yellow, red, blue, and white.

*It is not a question of
what we feel, but of what
God says. God's Word is
always to be believed.
Our own feelings are
oftentimes to be doubted.*

The Path

R.A. Torrey