

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

September, 2020

Bouncing Back

When you hear the word **resilience**, what comes to your mind? I have asked a few people this question and the majority stated the same thing, “bouncing back.” Is that what came to your mind?

Those words came to my mind right away when I took this subject to write about a few months ago. However, in my research of the word, I came across an article that stated, “*Resilience is the quality of being able to adapt to stressful life changes and “bouncing back” from hardship. Resilience is a response to tragedy, crisis, or other life-altering changes that allows us to move on, despite the loss.*” It’s our human way or ability to suffer greatly sometimes and grow from the life changing events we have faced such as 9/11; or even now, as we are facing the coronavirus pandemic.

If we look around us, we can see personal examples of resilience every day in the lives of people who suffer from handicaps, tragedy, tragic deaths of love ones, and many other things they are faced with. I am amazed at how resilient people are when they refuse to give up on themselves, knowing the hardship and struggles they will face day after day, especially for the rest of their lives. Joni Eareckson Tada’s name comes to my mind. As I write this article, she shared today on her podcast, why God allows hardships to continue in our lives. She is celebrating 53 years of God bringing her through the struggles, disappointments, depression, suicidal thoughts, discouragement, and so much more, since she took a dive that redirected the course of her life when she became a quadriplegic at 17 years of age. She is one example of a resilient life lived for Christ that I know of in my lifetime. Google her if you don’t know her name or story; you will be blessed!

Moving on, did you know the word **resilience** is not in the two most popular English translations of the Bible, neither in the King James (KJV), nor in

the New International Version (NIV)? The word **resilience** might not be in those translations, but I found other words in the Scriptures that I know go hand in hand with resilience, **perseverance** being one of them. That being said, I want to talk about how we gain resilience through perseverance.

Resilience is defined as “An ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change;” and **Perseverance** is defined as “The continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition.”



I know that as I grow older and grow in my faith, I learn to be more resilient, and I learn from those who are more resilient around me. Even more so, I’ve learned from the many examples we can find in the Bible. I will share one with you that I can remember since childhood, being told by my Sunday School teacher, Minnie Wolfram. Some of you might recall it as “Joseph and the coat of many colors.”

This story starts in Genesis 37 and ends in chapter 50, which recounts the struggle of Joseph, son of Jacob. Joseph’s life was full of disappointments, struggles and painful circumstances.

While reading through these chapters, I discovered three key facts that empowered perseverance in Joseph’s life, and will in our lives.

The **first key fact** in Joseph’s story we see, is God’s continual presence from the onset of Joseph’s enslavement in Egypt. God’s presence is mentioned verse after verse throughout the

(Continued on next page)

RESILIENCE

chapters. God's presence did not change Joseph's circumstance, but rather empowered Joseph to remain patient and faithful within the present problems. Though wrongfully separated from his father, falsely accused of indecency, and forced into slavery, Joseph was sustained by God's presence. We see this theme continue to follow Joseph as it states in Genesis 39:21a (KJV), "*But the Lord was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour...*"

Throughout the Old and New Testament, God's presence is given to us as a promise of God's steadfastness in hard times. Whatever the problem we face, may we look to God's presence for the strength to persevere. Philippians 4:6-7 (KJV), "*Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*"

The **second key fact** we can see, is God working in the process. Do you ever feel like as if it is taking forever to go through a trial in your life, or to receive an answer to your prayers during this time? God used the process time to prepare Joseph, just as he does today in our lives. As a significant amount of time passed, God was developing Joseph's gifts, to prepare him for his moment with Pharaoh years later.

I see how God uses our waiting to prepare us for our future purpose. Scripture repeatedly reminds us to cling to this truth in times of trial and prolonged suffering. We read in 2 Peter 3:9 (KJV), "*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*"

Paul reminds us of the prizes of our suffering, saying in Romans 5:3-5 (KJV), "*And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience, and patience, experience, and experience, hope, and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love*

of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

The **third key fact** is that God will repurpose our lives through perseverance. The meaning of repurpose is the use of something for a purpose other than its original intended use. Joseph's life was repurposed by God, from the kid brother tending flocks with his siblings, to becoming a slave, to an inmate in prison, on to be ruler of Egypt.

God is the one who gives our life purpose. And when we choose to go a different direction than the path that God has laid before us, He is patient and tries to draw us back to Him. However, it is not until we return to Him, that He can restore His purpose for our lives or even repurposes them as necessary. He always has a purpose for us, no matter the season of life.

So, to wrap it up, this is how I see resilience in a nutshell. I've taken this from the same article I mentioned in the beginning of the newsletter.

When we continue continuing to follow God's plan for our lives; pressing on (Philippians 3:13-15), overcome hardship and temptation (Romans 12:21), and persevere in the face of trials (James 1:12): we as believers in Jesus Christ are upheld by God's power and so are naturally resilient. "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;" 2 Corinthians 4:8-9. We as Christians will keep "bouncing back.

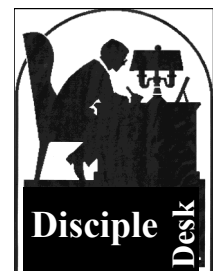
The key to resiliency is faith in the Lord:

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way. ²⁴ Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand." Psalm 37:23-24

Proverbs 3:5-6 is a good passage to cling also: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths."

Choosing to trust in the Lord is the best way to stay resilient.

In His Service,
Phyllis Clark



Connect

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TLC

Together Loving Christ

Are you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

Join with us in our Adult Study Group at Sunny Place every Thursday at 7:00 p. m.

Grow in the Word!



Sunny Place Church is open for Sunday Morning Services and Thursday Night Bible Study as of June 21st.

Some COVID safety restrictions will apply:

- A mask is required anytime you will be walking around. Once seated, in the sanctuary or at a class in the Fellowship hall, mask can be removed.
- Masks will be required if the congregation is asked to sing.
 - Sanctuary seating will be every other row
 - Please bring your own bibles.
 - Bible study classes in the fellowship hall, will have tables spread out, and can seat 4 at each table.
- Social distance will be important inside the building, so there will be no gathering in the Narthex, Sanctuary, hallways, etc.

Our Church has always been about connecting with God and one another in spirit. While many are ready to begin worship in a live setting, some are not. We will have zoom service available.

Our Sunday Morning Worship Services and Mid-Week meetings, are also being held on Zoom. Please contact us in order to have the invitations and links sent to you. The contact information is inside on the Church Events page.

Visit us at: www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ

Elders Minutes of Meeting held August 5, 2020

Attended by Pastor Pete Weber, Phyllis Clark, Tim Kasza, Scott Krout and Nona Koivula via Zoom

Prayer and Devotion: "I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our LORD. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD. Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods. Many, O LORD my God are the wonders you have done. The things you planned for us no one can recount to you; were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare."
Psalm 40:1-5

Ministry Reports

Treasurer: Budgeted Bank Balance \$1,515.27; Giving \$9,038.36; Expenses \$26,635.81
Faith Promise \$10,274

Worship & Prayer: Sara and Emily will be going to college and their last Sunday will be Aug. 16. The team will miss their devotion and talents as vocalists. The Sterkel and Jacob families continue to faithfully serve on the team. Jacob Garcia continues to make improvements and implement changes to better serve the church on Zoom and the Proclaim presentation software. Our church will upgrade the internet provider to Comcast and the camera in the back of the sanctuary will soon be functional. There is a need for people who can serve alongside Jacob to learn Zoom management, Proclaim and the Soundboard. Anyone interested please see Effie.

Christian Education & Fellowship: Each week there are two Bible study sessions; Thursday evening and Sunday morning at church and Zoom. The church picnic is being planned for Sunday, Sept. 13th outside with a tent. Much of the food will be catered and served according to CDC protocols.

Pastoral Care & Encouragement: Cards to celebrate birthdays, cards for encouragement and graduation are being sent.

Outreach & Missions: On Saturday Aug 8 there will be a Senior Luncheon drive by. Pastor Pete and Carla will be at our church to pray with people. Phyllis said the Outreach team prepares and distributes between 40 and 50 lunches. Our sanctuary will be decorated with country flags from around the world for Missions Sunday, Aug 9 with John Johnson being our missionary guest speaker. The Missions team will send a letter, 2020-2021 Missions budget and commitment cards to our congregation. The Faith Promise commitment cards are asked to be completed and returned to our church. They can be placed in the offering box in the narthex.

Stewardship & Support Services: There has not been any water flooding in the basement. Tim has gotten quotes from two companies for the maintenance of our parking lot. Hand sanitizers have been installed in the downstairs bathrooms and fellowship hall.

New and Old Business

Camp Warren, the Christian Conference center owned by the Church of God Illinois Ministries has suffered financially due to COVID 19. It has been a painful and difficult decision to sell the camp. Pastor Pete, Carla and others have fond memories of the Christian and youth camp meetings. Pastor Pete and Carla will vacation from Sept. 22 to Oct. 5.

The next Elders meeting will be Sept 2nd.

Sunny Place Church

September, 2020



Annual Church Picnic Sunday, September 13

Let's sit outside under the big tent and enjoy the family of God. All food will be provided.

Our Sunday Worship Services, Thursday night Bible Studies and Meetings will be held at the scheduled times.

If you would like to join us for a service or study, via ZOOM, send an email with your name and contact information to sunnyplacecog@gmail.com to request a link to be sent to you.

You can also listen to the audio sermons, or watch the full video sessions of the services, within a few days afterwards, by selecting either version on: sunnyplacechurch.org/resources/audio-sermons.



Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
"The Church of God
Revealed in Scripture"

Wednesday



7:00 p.m.

Designed especially for young adults and youths.
A Spirit led time of hanging out, sharing thoughts, prayer, encouragement, Scripture reading, and more.



A time to share with others:
stories and answers
of how the Lord has
answered prayers in your life



7:00 p.m.

**"The Lessons of
the Kings"**

A Study of the four books of the Kings.
Led by Pastor Pete