

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

July, 2021

Glad to Know God is in Control

SUFFERING

Suffering: The dictionary states' suffering is: pain caused by injury, illness, loss, etc.: physical, mental, or emotional, feelings of pain. So, in my mind, I put it in two categories; physical and emotional or the combination of both. The first thing that came to mind before starting to write this article was something they would tell us A LOT in boot camp: "Suck it up!" "Pain is just weakness leaving your body." "And what doesn't kill you makes you stronger." Now, if we think about those statements in a worldly way, it's more of a tough guy statement, but if we think of it in a Christian way, it's more of a true statement that shows our trust in God.

Psalm 119:50 My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life.

Romans 5:1-5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

2 Corinthians 1:3-7 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

I know it's easy to pick out Scriptures that tell us about Gods peace and comfort, but what if we never had to go through some of the tough times? Do you think we could help others, or would they even want to listen to us if we try to comfort them? I think most worldly people think Christians never have tough times. You know: most of us never have suffering at all because things are so perfect for us; no deaths, no sicknesses, and no physical problems. Nope! Not a problem in the world. Oh, wait! That's right, most of us, if not all of us, has had some type of sufferings! And it also seemed to be more so within the last few years, at least for myself.

So how did we get through it? Maybe because we know Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Or Job 12:12-13 Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding? "To God belong wisdom and power; counsel and understanding are his.

Job 36:26 How great is God—beyond our understanding! The number of his years is past finding out.

I started looking back at my life and all those times that I felt like I was suffering, and I can tell you this, God did not do what I wanted Him to do at those times, but He did get me through them according to His plan, not mine. I can also state that it has helped me to become a better and stronger Christian because of it. And that was His plan from the very beginning. That is what He wants from all of us. We know God doesn't want us to suffer, but when we do, He wants us to come closer to Him and know that He is the one getting us through it all. God is in

(Continued on next page)

control not us. His plan is A LOT better than our plan; I will bet my life on that. I think Peter's letter to all those regions explains this pretty well.

1 Peter 1:3-7 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

So what do you think? Suffering sounds fun right?... No....it doesn't sound fun. I can't recall in any Scripture that talks about suffering being fun. But do you think it helps us become better and stronger Christians?... I do, because it allows us, if we chose to come closer to Him and trust in Him more, to get through whatever tough times we might be going through, and be able to praise Him when it has passed.

Having to write this article, I started as I always do, by reading any and all scripture related to that word. And I totally forgot all about the book of Job. If you are ever suffering, or should I say *when* you are suffering, and you don't remember reading the story of Job, you might want to read it again, because I think there is only 1 other person that had more suffering than Job. Job was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. He had a lot of suffering through the story, and I love what he said to his wife during all this suffering.

Job 2:10 He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?"

At the end of the story Job said to the Lord:

Job 42:2 "I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

At the end the Lord restored his fortunes and gave him

twice as much as he had before.

There is one more thing I would like to write about. I have been to a lot of funerals the last year and a half and I heard some of the people say, "I wish they had more time." I know they were suffering and it is hard to lose a loved one. But having to write this article about suffering made me start thinking about that statement. What if you or I were in control of when we would lose our loved one? Would you, or could you, make that decision? Would it be, maybe, after they had a heart attack and would be living on life support, or maybe after they had M.S. and had to suffer for a long time, or cancer or any other bad health problems? Or would it be before they had any suffering? Would you know if they were saved before you made that decision? I know there are a lot of other scenarios of loved ones that have died and all of them are very difficult and painful. But as for me, I couldn't make that decision, and I am glad to know that God is in full control, so His will be done, not our will be done.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. He has the best plan, so let's put our full support and trust in Him to be that body of Christ. And remember:

1 Corinthians 12:26-27 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Romans 8:16-17 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.

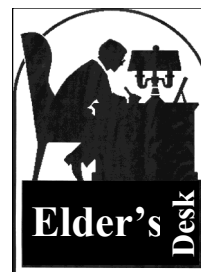
One last thing, I remember this small statement from the secretaries desk at our old church, and thought it would end this well.

God won't give you anything you can't handle.

I just wish he didn't trust me so much

Your humble servant in Christ

Ted Gehman



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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 now open for Sunday Morning Services

We are happy to announce that the COVID-19 policy at Sunny Place has come to an end. The level of risk has lowered significantly to the point where we can allow masks to be optional. There will also be no social distancing limits or roped off pews.

We are grateful to God for taking us through this unusual and challenging ordeal. He has kept us safe and provided for us in many ways so that we could continue in worship and ministry throughout the entire fourteen plus months.

We will continue using Zoom for some waiting to finish getting vaccinated or transitioning to in-person activity. If not vaccinated and have not had COVID-19, we recommend you wear a mask. But the decision is up to you.

Our Sunday Morning Worship Services and Mid-Week meetings, are also being held on Zoom. Please send us an email with your name and contact information to: sunnyplacecog@gmail.com to request a link to be sent to you

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 June 2, 2021

Attended by Pastor Pete Weber, Phyllis Clark, Tim Kasza, Ted Gehman and Nona Koivula

Prayer and Devotion “Peter answered him, ‘We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?’ Jesus said to them, ‘I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on the twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.” *Matthew 19:27-30*

Ministry Reports

Treasurer: Budgeted Bank Balance \$1,608.21 Giving \$10,945.67 Expenses \$24,765.10. All Faith Promise funds were distributed. The total amount was \$19,807.12.

Worship & Prayer: There will be a Worship Ministry team meeting Sunday, June 13, after rehearsal. Several topics will be discussed and scheduling people to serve while many are vacationing this summer. The team will discuss Worship Wednesdays to be planned at a church family residence in the near future.

Christian Education & Fellowship: The Thursday evening Bible study on Zoom and the Sunday morning Bible study on Zoom and in person at church continue. There are three graduates who will be recognized in the near future.

Pastoral Care & Encouragement: Sam Jacob offers pastoral care for those who contact him. Encouragement cards and phone calls continue.

Outreach & Missions: There will be a Second Saturday Senior luncheon on June 12. Last month lunch was offered outside under canopies. In June the luncheon will be outside, weather permitting or in Fellowship Hall. The Faith Promise funds were distributed for 2020-2021. The pledges for this year amount to \$19,100.

Stewardship & Support Services: There was a workday May 15 which was attended by 8 people and many repairs or projects were accomplished. There is a reminder for people to help clean our church by staying a half hour after Worship service on any Sunday. One of the two air conditioning units needs to be replaced. It will only partially cool the sanctuary. We will inform our congregation about the need and ask for donations from willing hearts.

New and Old Business

- Elder shepherding – The Elders will contact our church family on a regular basis to remain spiritually connected. North American Church of God Convention will occur June 26-29 in Denver CO. Pastors Pete and Sam will attend. Any person can attend by contacting www.jesusisthesubject.org
- The Elders discussed the COVID restrictions and decided to change the church policies based on declining numbers and vaccinations. Pastor Pete will send an e- letter explaining the changes to our congregation effective immediately.
- On Sunday July 4th there will be baptisms.
- The Weber family will host a 4th of July fest at their home in West Chicago.
- On July 17 there will be a community garage sale which our church will participate in.

Next Elders meeting July 7, 2021

Sunny Place Church, July 2021 Events

Community GARAGE SALE

Saturday, July 17th

Sunny Place Church parking lot

We will be participating with our neighbors on the block with a joint garage sale.

Sunny Place participants can bring articles to sell at your own table in our back parking lot. You can keep or donate the amount you collect. We also need volunteers to help, sell NICE Foundation donations to help out their ministry.

This will also be a great time to meet our neighborhood families and show love to those who come our way.

What you do not sell at the sale, **you must take home**. Let's make this a church family day! We might even have a food truck. Please let Carla know how many will be attending in order to have enough room for tables, etc.

Fourth Fest at the Weber's
Sunday, July 4th, 2:00 p.m.



2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon
Saturday, July 10th, 11:30 am



Sunny Place Church
Free for Seniors +55, register at 630/398-2314



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

Sunday Worship Services, 10:45 a.m.
In-person and on Zoom

7:00 p.m.



**"The Gospel and the
Children of Abraham"**

A Study of the book of Galatians

Led by Pastor Pete
7:00 p.m. On Zoom only

Our Sunday Worship Services, and Thursday night Bible Study 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, within a few days afterwards, by selecting either version on: sunnyplacechurch.org/resources/audio-sermons.