

LIVING WITH PAIN

While we live with pain, let's allow the pain to do its good work, and press us into the precious mold of the character of Christ.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ If we are going to LIVE IT, we need to talk about something we *don't like* to talk about—**pain**.
- ❖ Pain is a part of life we wish would go away. But if God is the Designer of the universe and the Ruler of our life, then God ordains or allows our pain.
- ❖ Why on earth would He do that? Is it essential that pain be part of our experience if we want to share in God's nature, to be like Him? I can hear you: "Perish the very thought." But what if that is true?
- ❖ The Bible tells us that the eyes of God go to and fro throughout the earth (2 Chronicles 16:9). He surely sees a lot that would cause Him pain.
- ❖ What pain would you feel in the following situations?
 - *Jesus walked this earth and healed, blessed, fed, carried, taught, cared for, touched and prayed for hundreds of humans. And then He heard human voices shouting "Away with him!" "Crucify him!"
 - *One of His 12 disciples betrayed Him – for *money*!
 - *One of His dearest friends denied that they ever knew Him.
- ❖ If you were God, what kind of pain would you feel as babies you have lovingly given life grow up and get strong—and then use their muscles or money or guns or emotional manipulation or political power or just plain meanness to make the lives of your other little babies into a living hell? God lives with pain.
- ❖ Scripture tells us that the earth is in pain (cf. Jeremiah 51:29; Romans 8:22). Tectonic plates grind together. Earthquakes; tsunamis; volcanic eruptions; and dramatic climate change all give us the evidence.
- ❖ Entire species of life are disappearing from our planet.
- ❖ Among humans, diseases are rampant. We are running with our best science to catch up, but more and more people are suffering. There is no question that as a whole human race, we are living with pain.
- ❖ What about your own personal life? What kinds of pain are you living with? And how have you been dealing with it?
- ❖ It is said that when the body has had more than it can handle, it will sometimes try to put you into a coma, to make you just STOP.
- ❖ But it only does that when you keep refusing to listen to pain, which is there to let you know that something isn't right. So, pain is not always an enemy. Sometimes it is trying to be your friend.
- ❖ But is pain an important part of making a person into a Christian? It is if "Christian" means "like Christ".
- ❖ Apostle Paul talked about getting to know Jesus in two ways: in i) the glory of His resurrection, and ii) the fellowship of His suffering (Philippians 3:10).
- ❖ It seems you don't get to the one without the other.

KEY SCRIPTURES: Philippians 3:10;
 2 Corinthians 12:9-10; 1 Peter 4:1,2,12,13,19;
 Hebrews 2:10-11; James 5:9-11

- ❖ In 2 Corinthians 12 God told Paul that "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness" (v. 12a), and Paul's response was: "Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me" (v. 9b).
- ❖ When Paul realized that at our lowest points God is perfected—or completed—in us, he started to take pleasure in the needs and persecutions, distresses and personal illness ...the things that were causing him pain.
- ❖ Not because he liked pain any more than we do, but because he realized what was happening to him as he experienced pain. He felt brotherhood with Jesus, who walked the road of suffering before us and walks it right with us.
- ❖ Peter chimed in on this in 1 Peter 4:1-2:

Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ²that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.
- ❖ God intends suffering to do good for us and to us. But we are the ones who decide what fruit will be produced in us. Are we willing to let the pain we live with form us more into the character of Christ?
- ❖ A caution about what living with pain can do: It can make us permanently unpleasant, always having bad feelings about ourselves and other people. A common saying is that "hurt people hurt people."
- ❖ But let's recognize that that is a choice. It doesn't have to be that way.
- ❖ In a fallen world, with fallen people and tough circumstances, we live with pain.
- ❖ That's a fact. But let's allow the pain to do its good work, and press us into the precious mold of the character of Christ.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Read the Key Scriptures together. What do they teach us about experiencing pain?
2. Give examples from scripture and personal experience of how people have benefited from or become bitter about pain.
3. Pray for each other to allow pain to "have its perfect work" in your lives.

PRAYER TIME

Pray together the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples (Matthew 7:9-15).

WEEK OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
 CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
 Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: What is the worst injury you have experienced at play or at work? How long did it take for you to recover?



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TO SUBMIT A BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Obtain approval from Head of Department and send to announcements@faithsanctuary.com by Wednesday @ 4:00 p.m. (If projection is desired send to media@faithsanctuary.com.)

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All the way my Savior leads me;
What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy,
Who through life has been my Guide?
Heav'nly peace, divinest comfort,
Here by faith in Him to dwell!
For I know, what'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well

2

All the way my Savior leads me,
Cheers each winding path I tread,
Gives me grace for every trial,
Feeds me with the living bread.
Though my weary steps may falter,
And my soul athirst may be,
Gushing from the Rock before me,
Lo! a spring of joy I see

FAITH SANCTUARY ON-LINE SERVICES

SUNDAY @ 10:15 a.m. – Sunday Bible Study
SUNDAY @ 11:00 a.m. – Worship Service LIVE
SUNDAY @ 3:00 and 8:00 p.m. – Worship Service
Rebroadcast
MONDAY @ 6:30 p.m. – Berean Bible Study on
Zoom, Facebook, YouTube
WEDNESDAY @ 7:00 p.m. – Worship Service
Rebroadcast

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

February 28, 2021

Faith SANCTUARY

Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

2021 ~ Live It! ~ 2021

Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

*"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."
Romans 8:17 NKJV*

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