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# Truth & Right

GENESIS

Tim Henderson, Editor

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*"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things." Phil. 4:8 (NASB-U)*

A publication of the  
**Wellsburg  
church of Christ**  
Which meets at:  
112 Sunset Ave.  
Wellsburg, WV 26070  
304-737-1422

*We appreciate so much your presence here with us today. We would like to extend an invitation to join us at any of our other times of worship.*

## **TIMES OF SERVICES**

**SUNDAY**  
Bible Classes\* 10:00 AM  
AM Worship 10:45 AM  
PM Worship 6:30 PM

**WEDNESDAY**  
Bible Classes\* 7:00 PM  
(\* Bible Classes for All Ages)

## **Today's Sermons:**

*AM: Interested in the  
Lord's Work  
PM: Distracted by  
Good*

*Audio CD's are available  
free of charge in the foyer.*

*Please visit our website:  
[www.truthandright.org](http://www.truthandright.org)*

*If you have any questions regarding  
what we teach and practice, please  
feel free to ask*

## *Are The Faithful Never In Darkness?*

*Gary Henry*

*"Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God" 1 Samuel 30:6*

In a way, it is encouraging to me to read that *"David was greatly distressed."* If a man of his character could be distressed, then when I am frightened and discouraged, I shouldn't assume that such feelings represent a failure of faith on my part. Distress MAY mean a failure of faith, but then again, it may not. David's faith didn't mean that he was never discouraged; it meant that he responded to discouragement by REFUSING TO GIVE UP.

As long as we live in this world, there are going to be some dark days for us. Satan will see to that. Being a Christian does not insulate us from hardship and heartache. And

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only a robot could experience the sadness of this world without emotional distress. So the mere presence of certain FEELINGS shouldn't surprise us.

**Faith doesn't mean always feeling confident.** If I believe the gospel of Christ is true, I believe it for the same reason that I believe my next door neighbor is trustworthy: the evidence for it is stronger than the evidence against it. But that doesn't mean that a doubt may not arise now and then, either as to the gospel's truth or my neighbor's trustworthiness. When a doubt arises, faith is not taken aback. It simply says, "Has anything about the EVIDENCE changed?"

**Hope doesn't mean always feeling hopeful.** Hope is based on faith, and so, like faith, it can sometimes be buffeted by the distresses of daily events. Even with the strongest possible reasons to believe and to hope, we find that short-term happenings can make it seem that our hopes are not going to be realized. In this respect, religious hope is no different than any other kind of hope. Those who conquer, whether in spiritual or temporal affairs, are those who hang on to their hopes with an "it ain't over till it's over" attitude.

I like to think of hope as **the active exercise of faith**. It doesn't mean never being in darkness or doubt. It means that in darkness or doubt we choose to look at the bigger picture, and based on the bigger picture, we decide to keep going forward. And let me tell you: **Deciding to go forward when you're discouraged is as fine a thing as you'll ever do.**

*"Hope is grief's best music"*

*Henry George Bohn*

*"Hope is faith holding out its hands in the dark"*

*George Iles*

## *Becoming Adept at Devotion*

*Gary Henry*

*"Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ"*

**2 Thessalonians 3:5**

**In a world full of distractions, it is not easy to keep our hearts lovingly aimed in God's direction.** Our minds are tugged this way and that by multiple concerns, and when we try to keep them centered on God, we find that our minds wander. Consistent and easy devotion to God is a habit that must be acquired, a skill that must be learned. Like most other good things, godliness takes training, discipline, and regular practice over time.

If we're not where we want to be in our devotion to God, how do we get there? The answer is hardly surprising: **We get there a little at a time.** If a person has been confined to a hospital bed for several weeks, that person may aspire to running a twenty-six mile marathon at some point, but that is not going to happen the first day home from the hospital. The person will first have to sit up, then stand up, and then walk across the room. With daily discipline, the person will then walk around the block, then run around the block, and then run around many blocks. The marathon will come in due course, but only after a regimen of training that PROGRESSIVELY builds strength and skill over time. And in our spiritual lives, the very same "law of progressive strength" is in operation. We can get to the point where our hearts stay easily and naturally centered on God, but we can't get there overnight.

We need to be realistic enough to accept this fact: we won't become adept at devotion if we don't engage in the ACTIVITIES that are conducive to that. It is silly to suppose that

we can neglect the MEANS through which devotion is increased and still enjoy the RESULTS of those means. If we don't regularly take the time to engage in such disciplines as Bible study, prayer, and meditation, then we'll remain spiritually immature and it'll not get any easier for us to keep our hearts in the right place. As an older man, Paul knew what he was talking about when he said to his younger friend Timothy, "*exercise yourself toward godliness*" (1 Timothy 4:7).

*"Ostriches are not flying birds, chickens fly short distances with much effort, but eagles, doves, and swallows fly high and far. Sinners are like the ostrich and are earthbound. Good people who have not quite reached devotion are like the chicken; they fly in God's direction, but inefficiently and awkwardly. The devout soar to God with regularity. Devotion, then, is a natural agility of the soul"*  
*Francis de Sales*

*The Pain Is A Part of  
the Happiness*  
*Gary Henry*

*"Those who sow in tears  
Shall reap in joy."*  
**Psalm 126:5**

A time will come when our tears are wiped away. But that time is not yet, and we are left to ponder the tears that we shed right now. If we want to think rightly, how should we think, for instance, about the pain of losing

a love? "*Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy*" is part of the truth, but think about this . . .

Our tears aren't just **followed** by joy. They are a **part** of the joy.

In "Shadowlands," Richard Attenborough's film about the tragic, blissful love between C. S. Lewis and Joy Davidman, who died of cancer only a few years after they were married, there is an absolutely marvelous scene. "Jack" and Joy, whose cancer was in brief remission, have driven to Herefordshire for a romantic getaway, and they have taken shelter under a shed while a rainshower passes by. Jack has expressed how immeasurably happy he is to be with this woman whom he has come to love. And Joy says . . .

"It's not going to last, Jack."

"We shouldn't think about that now," Jack replies quietly. "Let's not spoil the time we have together."

"It doesn't spoil it," Joy says, "it makes it real . . . Let me just say it before this rain stops and we go back."

"What is there to say?"

"That I'm going to die, Jack . . . and I want to be with you then, too."

"I'll manage somehow," Jack says. "Don't worry about me."

"No, it can be better than that," Joy replies.

"I think it can be better than just 'managing' . . . What I'm trying to say is, the pain is a part of the happiness. That's the deal."

In my own life, I've come to see that this is true. Pain is not inconsistent with happiness. It's not even a thing that must be endured UNTIL we can be happy. The pain is a PART of the happiness.

That's the deal.

*"Things which come to us easily have  
no significance. Satisfaction comes  
when we do something which is difficult;  
when there is sacrifice involved"*  
*Barry Morris Goldwater*

## Those Serving This Week

### Sunday AM

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Class Prayer</b>   | Ken Prager      |
| <b>Announcements</b>  | Ed Roberts      |
| <b>Song Leader</b>    | Harold Marshall |
| <b>Scripture</b>      | Amos 5:1-13     |
| <b>Reader</b>         | Dan Marton      |
| <b>Prayer</b>         | Tim Henderson   |
| <b>Speaker</b>        | Tim Henderson   |
| <b>Lord's Supper</b>  |                 |
| Bread                 | Matt Ferrell    |
| Fruit of the Vine     | Harold Marshall |
| Serve                 | Terry Smith     |
| Serve                 | Ken Prager      |
| <b>Closing Prayer</b> | Chuck Isinghood |

Please inform the one in charge of announcements if you are unable to fulfill your responsibilities.

### Sunday PM

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| <b>Announcements</b>  | Ed Roberts    |
| <b>Song Leader</b>    | Earl Miller   |
| <b>Scripture</b>      | Amos 5:14-27  |
| <b>Reader</b>         | Blake Headen  |
| <b>1st Prayer</b>     | Ken Prager    |
| <b>Speaker</b>        | Tim Henderson |
| <b>Communion</b>      | Dan Marton    |
| <b>Closing Prayer</b> | Don Coen, Jr. |

### Wednesday

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Announcements</b>  | Ed Roberts      |
| <b>Class Prayer</b>   | Dave Harless    |
| <b>Song Leader</b>    | Singing/Praying |
| <b>Invitation</b>     | Tim Henderson   |
| <b>Closing Prayer</b> | Don Coen, Sr.   |

## *News N Notes*

**Please continue to remember these in your prayers:**

#### **Recovering:**

- Cary Lancaster
- Marie Roberts
- Ann Rudolph

#### **Prayer Requests:**

- Larry & Melissa Ping, Melissa suffered a miscarriage last week.
- Merl Frey
- Zeda Goddard's sons, Dallas and Terry, and her daughter Tammy Garrison
- Blake Headen, Alberta's husband, as he continues to deal with cancer treatments.
- George Hutto, preacher from Alabama diagnosed with cancer
- Virginia Malick, Peggy Miller's mother
- Alfred & Mary Jane Myers
- Belinda Porter's mother, Melissa Alley
- Jimmy Roberts, Ed & Marie's son
- Jim Roberts, Ed Roberts' father
- Chris Shane
- Monty Wallace, Charissa Wallace's father

#### **Don't forget our Shut-ins**

##### **Nursing Home:**

- Ethel Mahan
- Pauline Sellers

##### **At Home:**

- Josephine Clow
- Mabel Fleming
- Zeda Goddard
- Betty Hunter
- Pauline Midcap

Send them a card—give them a call—let them know we are thinking about them.

If someone needs to be added to this list, please call:  
304-914-2262 or 304-914-2263