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ARROWS IN THE HAND OF A MIGHTY MAN

David penned a song concerning the home and family in Psalm 127. While there are many things we could discuss from this psalm, in this article, let us focus on verse 4: *“As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.”*

What a picture this paints for us! Imagine the bowhunter who not only works at his aim but also takes care of his bow and arrows so they are ready for the hunt. He realizes that each piece cannot function properly without the other. In fact, his reputation as a “mighty man” is the result of where and when he shot his arrows! We see this man is “mighty” because he shot his arrows purposefully. He had an intended target in mind and shot his arrows toward that target. What does this statement from Psalm 127:4 teach us about

parenting?

First, parents have a purpose. Parenting is more than the physical act of reproduction. Parenting means taking responsibility for another life (or lives) and trying to make sure this life is productive in following God’s will (Eph. 6:4) and in society. When we appreciate what God expects of us in parenting, it proves again why God knows best in saying that parenting belongs to a married couple (Heb. 13:4). Not only does marriage keep us from fornication (I Cor. 7:2), but in such a relationship, we bring children into this world where both father and mother work together in the training and admonition of these precious ones. From Abraham’s day, we see this is God’s purpose for parents. God said, *“I know him, that he will command his children and his*

household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment ..." (Gen. 18:19).

Second, Psalm 127:4 shows us that just as arrows don't fire themselves from the bow, so also children cannot be left to raise themselves. David's son Solomon understood this. He said, *"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame"* (Prov. 29:15). Children make foolish decisions (Prov. 22:15), and they need training and encouragement from parents so they can grow up, be parents themselves, and continue this process for another generation (Prov. 22:6). Parents, whether they have one or a dozen children, cannot put matters on "auto-pilot" and expect a good result when it comes to child-rearing!

Third, we see that the "mighty man" purposely sends his arrows in the direction intended. In other words, he has a purpose in mind. Sometimes, we find parents who never intend for their "arrows" to leave the "quiver"! Thus, children grow up and seem to have no direction or purpose in their lives. This is not right. Parenting requires we send our "arrows" out into the world so

that they can benefit this world as "shining lights" (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:14-15).

The Bible is clear concerning the parent's purpose in training our children in the right way. If we have been lacking in this area, let us repent and start today to follow the Lord's will. Following what the Lord says will benefit us, our children, the church, and the community in which we live. Don't be selfish, but selfless. Let us give our children the "tools" necessary for living in this world and preparing for the next so that our children can then prepare their children, and so on!

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omans fourteen reminds the strong Christian of his responsibilities toward the weak and toward God (v. 1-6, 15:1, 7). At the same time, there are responsibilities the weak have toward the strong and toward God. All are reminded that *"None of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself"* (Rom. 14:7). Also, *"every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.... every one of us shall give account of himself to God"* (v. 11-12). In all

things, Christians need to make sure that what they are doing is of “faith.” In this case, Paul speaks of personal faith, one’s conviction on a matter, as opposed to the objective body of truth, i.e., “the” faith that cannot be changed (Eph. 4:5; Jude 3)

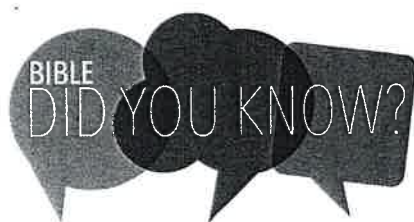
Each Christian’s faith must be his own. While there is a need for fellowship and togetherness as Christians (Gal. 6:2; Heb. 10:22-25), at the same time, the study (II Tim. 2:15), reading (Eph. 3:4) and obedience (Rev. 22:14) one does is the responsibility of the individual. We will stand before the Lord as individuals, and thus our faith needs to be our own. How much conviction do you have?

wickedness (I Pet. 4:15).

However, to suffer as a Christian is something that ought to give us joy (I Pet. 4:13-14). Peter’s point is that if we are suffering for the cause of Christ, then there can be joy that comes from this because recognize that we are people who are counted “*worthy to suffer shame for his name*” (Acts 5:41).

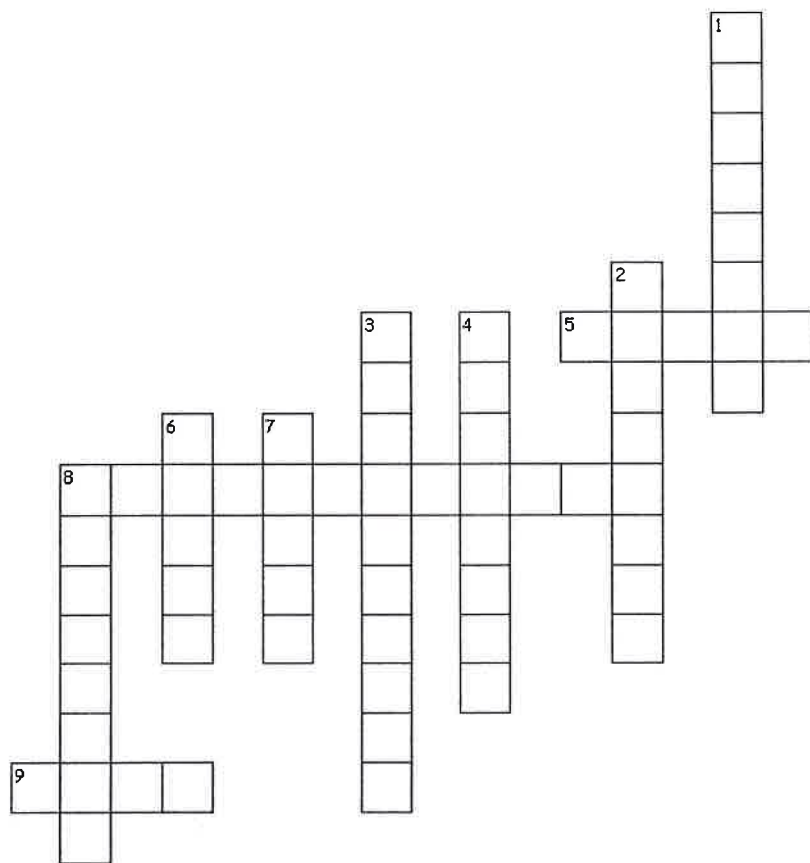
Therefore, suffering as a Christian is no reason to be ashamed (I Pet. 4:16). This stands in contrast to the statement of verse 15. Truly, God is glorified when we suffer for a time, but still, continue to be faithful to Him.
— Jarrod Jacobs

I
n the first epistle of Peter, chapter four, Peter takes some time to remind the brethren of the need for standing strong and being faithful even when the “*fiery trial*” comes upon them (I Pet. 4:12). Peter makes it clear that if someone suffers for the sins he has committed, then he is getting what he deserves. We ought to be ashamed if we are suffering because we have committed



***There will be tribulation
and distress for every soul
of man who does evil, but
glory and honor and
peace to everyone who
does good.
Romans 2:9-10***

The ULTIMATE CRSSWORD



ACROSS

5. This is the victory that overcomes the world. (1 Jn. 5:4)
8. God sent His Son to be the _____ of our sins. (1 Jn. 4:10).
9. _____ the Spirits to see if they are from God. (1 Jn. 4:1)

DOWN

1. If we sin, we have an _____ with the Father. (1 Jn. 2:1)
2. If we walk in this, we lie and do not practice the truth. (1 Jn. 1:6)
3. Every spirit that does not confess Jesus, this is the _____ (1 Jn. 4:3)
4. We know we've passed from death to life when we love ____ (1 Jn. 3:14)
6. If we love this the love of the Father is not in us. (1 Jn. 2:15)
7. If we walk in this the blood of Jesus cleanses us. (1 Jn. 1:7)
8. Everyone with hope on Him _____ himself. (1 Jn. 3:3)