

The October CFAMC Devotional Page

We all know this verse....

Psalm 23:1 – The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.

And we all believe this verse...

Psalm 136:1 – O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever.

And there are days when walking out these verses is easy; we can see and feel that God is good, and is meeting all of our needs. But then there are days like this...

Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/U.S. Air Force/New Jersey National Guard/Wikimedia Commons



... when sickness, sorrow, or Superstorm Sandy show up on our doorstep and won't leave. Then what?

I propose that it is at these times when we most need to look for the goodness of God, for He does not change. If we are not sensing God's goodness, I hate to say this, but, that's on us, not Him.

Hebrews 13:8 – Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

Our responsibility is to go looking.

Jeremiah 29:13 -- And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

The author of Psalm 77 went through what we have to go through sometimes – trouble and sorrow. He describes great and painful illness, insomnia – and because He knows that God is sovereign and thus in control of every event, he begins to reach a dangerous conclusion—

Psalm 77:7-9

⁷ Will the Lord cast off for ever? and will he be favourable no more?

⁸ Is his mercy clean gone for ever? doth his promise fail for evermore?

⁹ Hath God forgotten to be gracious? hath he in anger shut up his tender mercies? Selah.

There in Biblical clarity is what we tend to do when God allows bad stuff to enter our lives – “What did I do to deserve this? Is God angry with me? Has He forgotten me, and His promises to me?” We're human; the questions arise in disaster and tragedy. But the trick is not to stop at verse 9.

Psalm 77:10 – And I said, “This is my infirmity: but I will remember the years of the right hand of the most High.”

Our infirmity in a nutshell is that we are indeed human, burdened with a sin nature, and without even a hint of omnipotence and omniscience. We cannot know or control what is about to happen to us in the next minute. But there is one power that we do share with our Creator: we can choose what to do with what we have. We can choose how we are going to react to whatever He ordains. We can choose, if we easily cannot see evidence in front of us of how good He is, to look back on previous evidence (to wit; if you are alive now, you breathed and had a heart beat a second or so before – that's where to start with previous evidence).

Psalm 77:11-12

¹¹ I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old.

¹² I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings.

Inevitably, that sort of thinking and talking will lead to praise and worship...

Psalm 77:13-14

¹³ Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?

¹⁴ Thou art the God that doest wonders: thou hast declared thy strength among the people.

And that will help us put our focus back where it belongs – on God, not on our circumstances. It is easy to see Him at work when we are looking at Him!

Peter, while on the Sea of Galilee having what he would consider a “Sandy” moment, found that he could walk on water ... just as long as he kept his eyes on the Lord Jesus. That is what I advise us to do, in these interesting days in which we are living. Just keep focusing on Him...

Ephesians 1:15:21

¹⁵ Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

¹⁶ Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

¹⁷ That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

¹⁸ The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

¹⁹ And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

²⁰ Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

²¹ Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: