

- God could have kept Joseph out of slavery and out of jail, but He didn't. Why?

Genesis 50:20 "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for my good."

"You'll never know that God is all you need until God is all you've got."
~ Rick Warren

2. DON'T GIVE IN TO SHORT-TERM THINKING

- The secret of endurance is to remember that our pain is temporary, but our reward is eternal.

Romans 8:17-18 "If we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering. Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later."

- **Our ultimate hope** when we are experiencing a terrible illness, pain or loss is the realization that this life is not all there is ~ **the best is yet to come.**

It is all about where we place our focus.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

Hebrews 12:2 "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus ..."

*"If you look to the world, you'll be **distressed**. If you look within, you'll be **depressed**. But if you look at Christ, you'll be **at rest!**" ~ Corrie ten Boom*

3. REFUSE TO GIVE UP

- Our troubles should not diminish our faith or disillusion us.
- Our responsibility is to let people see Jesus through us - especially during the rough times.

Jesus tells us:

John 14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me."

John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. **BUT TAKE HEART!** I have overcome the world."

"DIGGING DEEPER"

For personal or small group study

Week of May 25, 2008

QUICK REVIEW: Which point or scripture passage most challenged, confused, or caught your attention in this week's message? Why?

TODAY'S FOCUS

1. What various types of storms impact our earth? How do they affect the earth and its people? What kinds of storms do we as Christians face? What levels of anxiety can they produce?
2. So often when faced with life's struggles we want to avoid the problem by escaping it or sweeping it under the rug, pretending it is not there. Why do you think we have a tendency to do that? What is the danger in that?

GETTING THE POINT

1. Read Mark 4:35-41. What can we learn from this story on how to handle the storms of life? What wrong perception did the disciples have of Jesus? How did that affect the way they viewed and handled the situation?

What right things did they do? ... wrong things? How can you apply what you've discovered to your own life?

2. Point number one in the sermon notes states, "*Remember that God's plan is good.*" This implies that God is good. In what ways does this impact the way you live above the pain of life's struggles? [Psalm 34:8-10; 100:5; 1 Peter 1:1-3; 2 Corinthians 2:14]

3. Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-11. What is this telling us about the purpose of trouble and suffering? List some ways in which the hardships of life help us overcome self-reliance? What is to be our source of power?

Many think that when God comforts us, our troubles should go away. Do you agree with them? Why or why not? What could be a downside of this kind of thinking?

What value is there for us and others in facing afflictions, and in being comforted, as described in this passage of scripture?

4. What attitude must we have to allow problems to drive us toward God instead of away from Him? [John 14:1; 16:33]

Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. We sincerely hope you will be especially aware of God's presence as we worship. If this is your first time to worship with us, here is what you can expect:

Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship, you are free to connect with God in whatever biblical way that expresses your heart's adoration. Some may remain seated, others stand, kneel, clap or lift their hands.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{turn page over}

Pastor Roger Wendt

May 25, 2008

TAKE HEART

"Don't waste your life by running from pain"
John 16:33

FOCUS FOR THE DAY ... "Living above life's storms"

When the storms of life come what do we do?

- Don't try to compare your painful circumstances to someone else's.
- We need to quit sweeping our problems under the rug. That is not an option we should choose.

**Although we may think we are at the end of our rope;
We are never to give up hope.**

2 Corinthians 4:8-9 "We are **pressed** on every side by troubles, but **not crushed** and broken. We are **perplexed** because we don't know why things happen as they do, but **we don't give up and quit**. We are **hunted down**, but God **never abandons** us. We get **knocked down**, but we **get up again** and keep going."

2 Corinthians 4:15-16 "All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. **Therefore we do not lose heart**. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day."

- Problems don't automatically produce what God intends. Many people choose to get bitter, rather than better and never grow up.

"How Do We Live Above Life's Storms?"

1. REMEMBER THAT GOD'S PLAN IS GOOD

- Peter assures us that problems are normal.

1 Peter 4:12 "Don't be bewildered or surprised when you go through the fiery trials ahead, for this is no strange, unusual thing that is going to happen to you."

- Paul explains the purpose of his hardship.

2 Corinthians 1:8-9 "We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. **But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God**, who raises the dead.