

Pastor's Pen

IT IS WELL

"Please run now to meet her and say to her, 'Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?'" And she answered, "It is well." (2 Kings 4:26)

When the Prophet Elisha spotted the Shunamite woman he was kindly acquainted with, riding a donkey in haste toward him, he sent his servant to inquire of her family's welfare. As of yet he did not know the reason for her haste in seeking him out was that her son had just died in her arms. It was through Elisha that the woman and her husband had received the promise of a son when there was little hope of that to begin with. And now determined, she rode with haste to the man of God holding fast to that promised hope. And in spite of her sorrow, she responded to the servant's inquiry with, *'It is well.'*

Reading of the Shunamite woman made me think back several years ago. I remember gaining a whole new level of respect and affection for my wife when we came close to losing our own youngest son, Isaac, in a near drowning accident while on vacation that summer. Now, having had several years of experience as an EMT and police dispatcher there is a certain expectation one might have of her in such a situation. However, in this moment there was something more that I saw in her than emergency response training. A deep conviction of faith was her strength that day as she constantly made the point to everyone we spoke to that day that no matter what the outcome, Christ was our sure foundation of promise and hope. It was her attitude of faith that communicated that no matter what, with her, all was well.

Now, it is not to say her faith or my own was the reason we did not lose our son that day. That was by God's grace alone. Sorrows and sufferings are assured to us all in varied degrees and there is no guarantee for tomorrow to us or to those we love. But it is to say dear friends, that we be reminded by those revealed in God's Word and in our lives who express Godly faith in trial that in such there is always promised hope in every outcome. And for those whose hope that is, it will always be well.

"For our momentary, light affliction is working out for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal (2 Cor 4:17-18)."

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Bryan

Grace Gems

The God of the Broken Hearted –(J.R. Miller)

"The Lord is near the broken-hearted." Psalm 34:18

The God of the Bible is the God of the broken-hearted.

The world cares little for the broken hearts. Indeed, people oftentimes break hearts by their cruelty, their falseness, their injustice, their coldness—and then move on as heedlessly as if they had trodden only on a worm! But God cares. Broken-heartedness attracts Him. The plaint of grief on earth, draws Him down from heaven.

Physicians in their rounds do not stop at the homes of the *well*, but of the *sick*. So it is with God in His movements through this world. It is not to the whole and the well—but to the wounded and stricken, that He comes with sweetest tenderness! Jesus said of His mission: "He has sent Me to bind up the broken-hearted." Isaiah 61:1

Quote of the Week

"Where there is faith, there are love, and hope, and humility; and where there is love, there is also trust; and where there is a holy trust in God, there is love to God; and where there is a gracious hope, there also is a holy fear of God."

-Jonathan Edwards

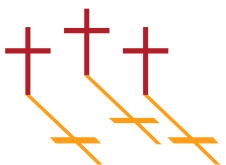
We look upon *trouble* as misfortune. We say that the life is being destroyed, which is passing through *adversity*. But the truth which we find in the Bible, does not so represent *suffering*. God is a repairer and restorer of the hurt and ruined life. He takes the bruised reed, and by His gentle skill makes it whole again, until it grows into fairest beauty. The love, pity, and grace of God, minister sweet blessing of comfort and healing—to restore the broken and wounded hearts of His people.

Much of the most beautiful life in this world, comes out of sorrow. As "fair flowers bloom upon rough stalks," so many of the fairest flowers of human life grow upon the *rough stalks of suffering*. We see that those who in heaven wear the whitest robes, and sing the loudest songs of victory—are those who have come out of *great tribulation*. Heaven's highest places are filling, not from earth's homes of glad festivity and tearless joy—but from its chambers of pain; its valleys of struggle where the battle is hard; and its scenes of sorrow, where pale cheeks are wet with tears, and where hearts are broken. The God of the Bible is the God of the *bowed down*—whom He *lifts up* into His strength.

God is the God of those who *fail*. Not that He loves those who stumble and fall, better than those who walk erect without stumbling; but He helps them more. The weak believers get more of His grace, than those who are strong believers. There is a special divine promise which says, "My divine power is made perfect in weakness." When we are conscious of our *own* insufficiency—then we are ready to receive of the *divine* sufficiency. Thus our very weakness is an element of strength. Our weakness is an empty cup, which God fills with His own strength.

You may think that your weakness unfits you for noble, strong, beautiful living—or for sweet, gentle, helpful serving. You wish you could get clear of it. It seems to burden you—an ugly spiritual deformity. But really it is something which, if you give it to Christ—He can transform into a blessing, a source of His power. The friend by your side, whom you envy because he seems so much stronger than you are—does not get so much of Christ's strength as you do. You are weaker than him, but your weakness draws to you *divine* power and makes you strong.

"He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds." Psalm 147:3



Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

Old Testament
New Testament
Young Parents
Young Adults
Sunday Morning @ 9AM

Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM
Men's Bible Study
Every other Saturday:
Women of Grace | 9am

Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
every other week @ Chambers, Cox's,
Patrick's, Brown's and Royall's

Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team
and forgot to sign up, please contact the
team leader at the appropriate email
address.

Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study
and beginning Sept. 7th is AWANA!

Service Times

Sunday Service 10:30AM
Children's Church @10:30AM

Giving from service on 8/28/2022

General Offering	7,275.87
Building Fund	564.00
Uganda	155.00
Benevolence	88.00
Total.....	8,082.87

Attendance	235
Sunday School	159
Online.....	24

Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
Maintenance-maintenance @ghbcva.org
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

Sep 04, 2022

Welcome