

JOY IN THE MORNING, PART 1

FROM TRIALS TO JOY

INTRODUCTION:

Psalm 30:5, “Weeping may endure for a night, but Joy cometh in the morning.”

Goals for Today:

A. Main thought: **James 1:12**, “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: For when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.” **ENDURETH:** Greek word means: “to endure, bear bravely and calmly” (Thayer).

Summation: Joy comes not from the suffering, pain and trials themselves; but joy comes from being faithful during our suffering, being strong in the Lord during painful times, and overcoming trials so we may serve God even more than we did before the trials. (More about this in Part 2.)

B. Points to be covered: (1) Primarily the trial of losing a close loved one and how we can help others who have lost close loved ones. (2) Marriage problems. (3) Declining health. (4) Financial difficulties. (5) Caring for the elderly and others with major health problems.

(1) Overcoming loss. **2 Cor. 1:3-7** (More in Part 2.)

A. Examples of losses.

B. Examples of God’s comfort.

(2) Trials during marriage. Three things to remember:

A. Loving a spouse is a command. **Titus 2:3-5**

B. Submit. **Eph.5:22-24**. Honor to submit. **Phil. 2:5-11**

C. Adapt. **Phil. 4:11-13**

(3) Health problems may test our faith. **2 Cor. 12:7-12**

(4) Financial difficulties. **Matt. 6:28-34**

(5) Caring for elderly and sick loved ones. **1 John 3:17-23**

Conclusion: There is a better place awaiting God’s faithful children. Angie knew this and one of her favorite songs was “I’ll Fly Away.”

JOY IN THE MORNING, PART 2

FINDING JOY

INTRODUCTION:

We all suffer trials. Some are minor and some are major.

WHY DO CHRISTIANS SUFFER?

1. Carelessness, ignorance, accidents
2. Natural disasters
3. Consequences of sin (our own or sins of others). **Heb. 12:6**
 - a. Adultery – growing problem. **Matthew 19:9**
 - b. Murder, theft, lying, gossip, etc.
4. **GOD DOES NOT PUNISH US BY KILLING OUR CHILDREN OR LOVED ONES!**
5. Some trials are those we accept to bring about good. **Prov. 3:5,6**

BLAME GOD?

1. Blame Adam and Eve. **Gen. 2:9,17**. We are not robots!
2. Would you like all of your children to be dolls, never able to return your love?
3. How do we look at the situation? (Psalm 37:25; Rom. 12:15; Psalm 30:5)

WHY ME? OR – WHY NOT ME?

HOW CAN WE OVERCOME TRIALS?

1. Humble yourself. **James 4:10**
2. Turn to older faithful Christian women. **Titus 2:3-5**
3. Serve God. **Gal. 6:9,10**

HOW CAN WE HELP THOSE WHO ARE SUFFERING?

THINGS NOT TO DO.

THINGS TO DO.

CONCLUSION (This part was accidentally not recorded, but you can read it below.)

SAVED THE HARDEST PART FOR LAST

- ⇒ This part wasn't even in my outline for today until a week ago. I was thinking about the things I had planned to say, and I realized I had left out some of the most important points. I wrote the JOY IN THE MORNING BOOK because I wanted people to know you could go through extremely painful times and still find happiness. Yet my talk for today did not include many of the things you should know if you ever face the trial of losing a child or other very close loved one. Also, you can't help a friend who has undergone such a trial unless you have some understanding of what they are facing.
- ⇒ A bookstore owner told me that when his adult daughter died in a car accident he cried every day for a year. I cried often at first, and gradually less and less, but I still cry. There are times when I have to get out some of Angie's letters to me and remember how much she loved me. As I read them, I can't help but cry. The next morning I feel so much better. It is like they are "cleansing tears" that help wash away some of the worst of my sorrow.
- ⇒ I never thought I would put flowers on a grave. I always wondered why people spent money on someone who was gone. Now I know. I want everyone who visits Angie's grave to know she is still remembered and loved. If she were here, I would buy things for her home, so why shouldn't I buy flowers for her grave?
- ⇒ For a long time I would "replay" what happened when I got that call saying Angie had been in an accident, and then the phone call on the way to the airport with Eric saying she had died instantly. They didn't want Eric to know until he got to the hospital, fearing he would have an accident. A friend told me about the "movie" she had in her mind, and how she would go over and over the day they learned her parents had both died when their car was overtaken by a tornado. She opened up to a neighbor one day, and the neighbor told her it was normal, and she could learn how to turn off that movie. It could be stopped and started at will. Then I understood.
- ⇒ When my brother and my dad passed away, I missed them close to their birthdays, but I did not even remember the exact day of their deaths. I always wondered why it was so hard for some people. Now I know. Our wedding anniversary is August 28. We were gone that evening in 2003, and the answering machine had a message with a baby saying, "dadadada..." And then Angie's sweet voice came on saying, "Sophie called to say Happy Anniversary." Angie died two days later. We had talked on the phone on the 29th, but I was so thankful I had her voice taped on the answering machine to listen to over and over. Three years later on our anniversary I was going to listen to it again, and I accidentally deleted it. I cried about 10 minutes and then I was OK. I told Joe and he said, "I'm sorry it happened, but I'm glad you are the one who

deleted it and not me.” Every year I have a hard time before Angie’s birthday and the week before our anniversary and Angie’s death.

⇒ Christmas without Angie was always hard, of course. Even the first year after my dad, brother, and mom died, Christmas was difficult. But EVERY year without Angie is hard. She is the one who passed out all the gifts and took such delight in giving and thrilled over the special gifts she received, whether little in cost or expensive. It was a happy time of giving and loving. In 2006 our son Mike had brought home Maria, whom he would later marry. Having her here was fun, but it also reminded me more of Angie being gone. I had what I thought was a panic attack. Maria had experienced some panic attacks before, and I had all of the same symptoms. She told me how to relax and get through it. Later I learned I had Supraventricular Tachycardia. The blood swirled in one chamber of my heart and would not move to the other chamber. So it caused my pulse to increase and also caused a feeling of great anxiety. I believe my own sorrow, stress or anxiety also brought on these times. I had a cardiac ablation in 2007, and no longer have pulses of around 200 beats a minute. The heart doctor told me, “You have never had a panic attack in your life. You were born with this problem.” But many people do have panic attacks when they lose loved ones, and if you have a similar experience, be sure to see a doctor. If your pulse goes anywhere near 200, go to the ER immediately. It took two trips to the ER, numerous times when I foolishly did not go, as well as many visits to a heart doctor for my condition to be diagnosed.

I WANT TO CONCLUDE WITH A POEM THAT SUMS UP THE MESSAGE FOR TODAY. I HOPE THESE LESSONS WILL INSPIRE YOU TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO GOD OR RETURN TO GOD IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN LEADING A FAITHFUL LIFE. BECAUSE WE ALL FACE TRIALS, AND ONLY GOD CAN SEE US THROUGH THOSE TIMES AND HEAL OUR HEARTS.

TESTING TIMES

By Hazel Petteys Smith

Is it when the sea is calm
With never a rising swell,
When life runs smoothly and evenly on
That I say of my soul, “Tis well”?

What of the day when the waves dash high
And the breakers o’er me roll;
When the storm clouds lower and light’nings flash,
How is it then, my soul?

Do I see the hand of the lord of Hosts
And feel His mighty power

Just as well when the tempests rage
As in the sunlit hour?

For truly He is just the same
As He was in the tempest's noise,
When Peter's hand met the hand of God
And the billows obeyed His voice.

God will not suffer me to be
Tempted beyond power to endure.
But will, with temptation, also make
A way of escape that is sure.

His grace, all sufficient, is freely given
To all who will draw on its wealth;
So why be impoverished? Oh, my soul,
When here is all needed for health?

So I lift up mine eyes far beyond the hills
To the Saviour, whose love and power
Have remained unchanged through the changing years,
Down to this very hour.

And though the storms of life may come,
(And come they surely will)
I'll put my trust in the living God
Who loves me and keeps me, still.

Then when suddenly my little barque
Is tossed with the angry wave
I'll cry to Him to come on board
For He is mighty to save.

I'll hear His voice as in days of yore
As He whispers, "Peace, be still,"
And the sea and my troubled soul
Will obey the Master's will.

This speech was presented by Barbara Hanna at the Eisenhower church of Christ in Odessa, TX on September 11, 2010 at their Ladies' Day. If you would like more information about the book by Barbara Hanna, *Joy In the Morning*, you may contact her at: phone: 806-832-5048; e-mail: HannaPubli@aol.com; or web site: www.hannapublications.com

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