

LIFE'S DAILY STRUGGLES

Life is filled with daily struggles. Watch the news and read the newspapers and you quickly realize the many struggles and problems that people face. We can bring it closer to home and realize that many of you are facing daily struggles. It may be at work, it may be finances, it may be with a friend or loved one, it may be at home. Life has a way of presenting us with many obstacles. Sometimes those struggles are especially difficult to cope with. There are times when daily struggles cause people to question the goodness and power of God. I want to consider the subject of life's daily struggles today and examine the Bible to see what it teaches us about dealing with these struggles.

Several Bible subjects come to mind when I think about daily struggles. Job is a wonderful example. David as he had to continually flee from Saul. Christ in his life and death. The apostles as they saw their Lord and master crucified.

I. Bible Examples.

A. Job

1. Job 3:26
2. Job 5:7
3. Job 14:1

B. Elijah (I Kings 19:8)

C. David

1. I Sam. 30:6
2. Psa. 46:1-3
3. Psa. 142:4—strain of being hunted...
4. Psa. 57—bold and animated
5. Psa. 73

D. Christ (Matt. 27:46)

E. Apostles

1. Matt. 26:56
2. John 21:3—went back to fishing.

F. James 1:2-4

G. Let's go back to a few of these

1. Psa. 73
 - a. Vss. 1-5--Trying to understand why he, a righteous man, was suffering, while those who lived contrary to God's will were prospering in all things.
 - b. How many times have we ourselves seen people who are trying to live as godly as possible, and yet have so much suffering come their way
 - c. ...while noticing others who do many things contrary to the will of God and yet prosperity seems to be with them in everything they touch?
 - d. Suffering sometimes happens to the righteous with no explanation, and not necessarily because God is punishing them for doing something wrong.
 - e. Vss. 17-18..until I thought.
2. Psa. 142
 - a. V. 4.. no man cared
 - b. Vss. 5-7..thou art my refuge.
3. Job . . . lost all his possessions, he lost all his children, he lost his health, and then he lost all the respect he once had among those who knew him.
 - a. Did he suffer because he had done something wrong in the eyes of God?
 - b. On the contrary, Job suffered because he was righteous.
4. James 1:2-4
 - a. James is seeking to encourage those early Christ to endure patiently their trials.

- b. Trials will help develop mature Christian character.
 - 5. Solomon stated:
 - a. Prov. 24:10—if thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.
 - b. Jer. 12:5—how wilt thou do...
 - 6. The apostle Paul
 - a. II Cor. 4:1 “We never lose heart.” (NEB)
 - b. II Cor. 4:8-10
 - c. Rom. 8:18
 - II. How do we deal with life’s struggles?
 - A. Some try denying their problems and just ignore them, but buried problems usually come back again with a renewed ability to complicate life.
 - B. Others are persuaded that a chemical (drugs and alcohol) escape will ease their pain, but they are only multiplying their struggles and their need for further escape.
 - C. The effective way is when a person realizes that the only effective way of overcoming life’s struggles is to seek help and advice from above.
 - D. The direction, strength and wisdom we can gain through the reading and study of His Word.
 - 1. Psa. 119: 25, 28, 50, 92, 105, 143, 161, 165
 - 2. Reading what God’s Word says makes a load seem lighter or a problem less intimidating.
 - E. Encouragement and fellowship of brethren.
 - 1. Hebrews 3:13; 6:11-12; 10:24-25; 12:1-3; 13:1-3
 - 2. Among any fellowship of believers is the wisdom of older Christians, the knowledge of life-long Bible students, the comfort and companionship of compassionate brethren, the example of faith men and women of God, and many other qualities that can and will help us.
 - 3. Christians are to be succours.
 - a. The word means “to run to the cry (of those in danger); hence..to help, succor, bring aid.
 - b. II Cor. 6:2
 - c. Rom. 16:2
 - d. Heb. 13:5, 6
 - e. Gal. 6:2
 - f. Song: “Sing to Me of Heaven” “Dreaming of the comrades that so long have gone...”
 - g. A comrade is *“one who shares with you under difficult circumstances, in your struggles, side by side.”*
 - F. The Blessings of Prayer.
 - 1. Phil. 4:6,7
 - 2. Heb. 4:14-16
 - 3. I Pet. 5:7
 - 4. I Sam. 30:8... David inquired of the Lord
 - G. We do not have to struggle alone.
 - 1. 2 Kings 14:26—one of the saddest verses in the entire Bible. “No helper for Israel..”
 - 2. Perhaps all of us have felt, at times in our lives, like Israel did.. . Struggling, suffering, striving to survive hardship or misfortune in life.
 - 3. Remember the words of David in Psa. 142:4– *“no one cares for my soul”*
 - 4. We can have the confidence that God will help us if we allow Him to.
 - 5. We can have the confidence that brothers and sisters in Christ will help us if we allow them to.
- Con: Life’s daily struggles. We all have them. James said, “when” not “If.” (Jam. 1). God has provided help, all of which revolves around being a faithful child of God.