

Faithful and Steadfast: Navigating Trials and Temptations

By Jeff Arnette

In life, we often face trials and temptations that test our faith and character. It is during these moments that we must cling to our convictions and remain faithful to God's word. The profound wisdom found in Revelation 2:10, Jude 21, and 2 Peter 2:20, provides guidance on how to navigate through challenging times while remaining steadfast in our devotion to God.

Revelation 2:10 - "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."

The book of Revelation offers encouragement to those enduring trials and persecution. This verse reminds us of the eternal reward that awaits those who remain faithful to God, even in the face of death. It serves as a powerful reminder that our temporary struggles pale in comparison to the glory that awaits us in eternity. We are called to persevere and hold fast to our faith, knowing that God is with us through every trial.

Jude 21 - "Keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life."

Jude's exhortation emphasizes the importance of actively maintaining our relationship with God. To "keep ourselves in the love of God" implies that we should consistently seek His presence, abide in His word, and cultivate a life of prayer. By doing so, we remain grounded in His love, eagerly awaiting the ultimate mercy and salvation that comes through Jesus Christ. In times of trial, let us hold on to God's promises and trust in His faithfulness.

2 Peter 2:20 - "For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first."

This verse serves as a warning against falling back into the entanglements of sin after experiencing the transforming power of God's grace. It reminds us of the importance of staying vigilant and not becoming complacent in our faith. If we allow ourselves to be swayed by worldly temptations and return to our former ways, the consequences can be devastating. Let us strive to maintain a pure and steadfast faith, continually seeking God's guidance to avoid the snares of sin.

As believers, we will undoubtedly face trials, temptations, and moments of doubt along our journey of faith. However, by anchoring ourselves in the wisdom of God's word, we can find strength and guidance to remain faithful and steadfast. It is my hope that you will be encouraged to persevere, stay focused on the eternal crown of life, eagerly awaiting the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, and faithfully using your gifts for God's glory.

- Central Haywood Church of Christ (via *Bulletin Gold*) -

Love is the root; obedience is the fruit. - Matthew Henry

News & Notes

BAPTISM: Geoff Hill. Welcome and pray for our new brother.

TODAY'S SPEAKER: Jordan Morris, a student at the WV School of Preaching in Moundsville, WV. Bro. Rico is participating in a lecture series in Florida.

TRI-STATE GRIEF FELLOWSHIP: Next Saturday, Jan. 20th, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the St. Clair Ave. Church of Christ. Lunch, laughter, love and learning. There is no cost to attend.

HOUSE FIRE VICTIM: Brenda Vause, 232 George St., Chester, WV 26034.

PANTRY: Tuna fish & noodles.

MALAWI PROJECT: Give voluntary monetary donations to purchase items to make the Birthing Kits to MaClay Toomey. Donate cash or checks made out to the church.

SICK & SHUT-IN: UPMC (ICU), Pittsburgh: Todd Grimes (Cindy Miskimen's nephew) Todd suffered a stroke. **At Home:** Pam Thompson, Dean Spencer, Peggy Linger, Claudette Miller, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, David Strum, Cheryl Renfro Walker. **Fox - Chester:** Mary Johnson (Lois Hissom's sister). **In Ohio: Herman McHan,** 7401 Elmwood Drive, Lisbon, OH 44432. **Janice Hutchins** (Marilyn Hadley's cousin), 130 N. Surry, East Liverpool, OH 43920. **Craig Sayers** (Twila Adamson's son), 63 Old Overlook Trail, Hendersonville, NC 28739. **Lori Stocks** (Karen Strum's niece), 115 Springbrook Drive, Findlay, OH 45840.

Nothing But the Bible

Clarence A. Westapher

A study of the Bible, without prejudice, will produce Christians only. As long as a man speaks where the Bible speaks, without adding the opinions of men, that man will be a Christian—nothing more, nothing less. It takes something other than the Bible to make a man a Methodist, a Presbyterian, or an Episcopalian. No man can belong to any religious denomination without adding and doing things contrary to God's Word. Listen to the divine warning: "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book" (Rev. 22:18). Now let us hear the request of Jesus as recorded in John 17:21: "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee." A man should not change, ignore, or trifle with the Word of God (Gal. 1:8). Let us study it carefully and make our life's work such as will meet God's approval.

(Eighty-three years old at the time he wrote this article.)

- Deceased

- Beacon, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL -