

## How Much Are You Willing to Trust God?

Thomas Baxley

Being a follower of God has never been easy. Abraham was afraid for his life because of how beautiful his wife was, and so, he lied about their relationship (Genesis 20). Joseph maintained his integrity and resisted temptation but still wound up in prison and was left there for two years after he should have been released (Genesis 41:1). Job was faithful and righteous, but Satan was allowed to test him to the max, and then, he was accused of evil and unrepentant sin. Israel escaped Egyptian bondage, and after three days found no water (Exodus 15:22-23). The prophets of God were hidden in caves during the time of Ahab and Jezebel (1 Kings 18:4). The people Jesus came to save betrayed Him, and one of His close followers betrayed Him, too. The book of Acts details a number of times Christians were arrested, beaten, threatened and even martyred. The apostle Paul had his own list of times he experienced various dangers (2 Corinthians 11:24ff). **Life is not always going to be fair or easy, so when the tough times come, how much are we willing to trust God (Romans 8:18)?**

[**Editor's Note:** The statement and sentiment of the three Jewish youths facing a fiery furnace ought to be demonstrated in the lives of Christians today. "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, 'O Nebuchadnezzar... our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up'" (Daniel 3:16-18 NKJV). ~ Louis Rushmore, Editor] - *Gospel Gazette Online* -

### As A Babe

May I be like a babe  
In the womb,  
Trusting fully in my God  
With no fear,  
To mature me  
In His word,  
And grow me fully  
Till it's time,  
Guiding me through  
Death's darkness  
To His brilliant paradise  
And perfect rest.

Elaine McClung  
July 2022

TRUST IN THE LORD  
with all thine heart,  
and lean not unto  
thine own understanding  
IN ALL THY WAYS  
acknowledge him,  
and he shall direct  
thy paths.  
Proverbs 3:5-6

Faithless is he that says farewell when the road darkens. J. R. R. Tolkien (1892 - 1973)

### News & Notes

**RESTORED:** Bev Heinselmann, 251 Fairview Road, Midland, PA 15059. Phone: 724-462-0526. Add this information to your directory.

**REQUEST FOR PRAYERS:** Linda Parkes. Linda is having difficulty walking and will have back surgery in early August.

**PANTRY:** Oatmeal.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** Next Saturday, Aug. 6th, 8:00 a.m. at EJ's.

**COVERED DISH:** Next Sunday, Aug. 7th, about Noon at the Fellowship Building, followed by our **early afternoon service at 2:00 p.m.** at the Church Building. Come and enjoy a meal together and then our afternoon worship.

**LADIES DAY:** Saturday, Aug. 13th, Columbiana Church of Christ. Topic: "Stock Your Pantry!" - Being refilled with Christ! Rom 15:13. 9:00 a.m. - Noon. Lunch provided. Additional details on the bulletin board. **RSVP by Wednesday, Aug. 10th.**

**GET WELL CARDS:** Several boxes of get well cards have been donated to the church and are FREE to anyone who wants them and can use them. They are in the foyer.

**SICK & SHUT-IN: Those with Covid or in recovery:** David Stefl, David & Becky McKitrick, David & Janet Malcomson, Mel Richmond, Rylan Richmond, and Maysun Reardon. Others on the sick list: **Encompass Health Rehab, Sewickley, PA:** Mike West. **The Orchards Rehab in East Liverpool:** Charlotte Mader (David Stefl's sister). **At Home:** Sam Burdine (Willard's brother), Ed Wiersbicki, Barbara DeLong, David McCoy, Russell Martin, Claudette Miller, Cheryl Renfro Walker. **Weston, WV:** Rick Beck.

### FACING OUR OWN MONSTERS

Did you know that Melville's *Moby Dick* was loosely based on a true story? In 1819, the whaling ship, Essex, left port from Nantucket to sail to the Pacific Ocean via Cape Horn. The crew took several whales without incident. Then one day, a massive whale hit the ship head-on. The giant then dove under the ship, turned and attacked it a second time. This time from the rear. The crew had to abandon their ship. From their lifeboats, the sailors watched as their livelihood sank beneath the waters. The first mate later wrote that "the leviathan struck with ten-fold fury and vengeance."

The Essex crew knew disaster. Their lives were put in peril. Then there was the difficult path back home. Even worse, they would arrive penniless and considered failures.

We might not have to fight a giant beast full of fury, but there are plenty of things that can cause hard times. In all these difficult situations, we need to remember the Lord's promise: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

- Larry Fitzgerald, Woodlawn church of Christ, Abilene, TX (via *Bulletin Digest*) -