

Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal

Sermon for the Lord's Day
Overcoming Grumbling (# 2)



Welcome Brothers and Sisters!

Charles Barry will lead our **Bible Class** and **Kerry Johnson** will lead us in **Song**, **Paul** is with us to present the **Lesson**. may God bless their efforts!

*Our Lord's Day
Plan...*

~ **Happy Lord's Day** ~

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.
John 16:33

We are praying for you!

George and Cindy Brown- for George's Colon Cancer operation on January 21.
James Watkins - for the comfort of his family and many friends. James died on January 13, 2022. He was a great gospel preacher and will be missed.

Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Inc.- for help and delivery of supplies to the Colorado fire victims and the flood and storm victims in the south and eastern parts of our country.

All people outside the Body of Christ - for them to hear of the saving power of Christ.

The church worldwide - for all of us living more faithfully.

On Perseverance and Giving Up

Andy Baker

Everyone gets tired from time to time. Often tiredness leads to exhaustion. When exhaustion is full and there's still work to be done, it can lead to burnout. With burnout comes an increased distance from job or family responsibilities, negativity, cynicism, and an abiding feeling of needful change. The thought is that if I move, or change jobs, or drastically change immediate things in my life, I'll be renewed and no longer feel like giving up. Solomon would say, this "is vanity and striving after the wind" (Eccl. 2:11).

I believe more people are bordering on burnout than ever before. The toll of the last several strenuous years have left many with an emptiness and banality that they alone cannot grasp or manage. We've burned out in many cases. Yet, what God's word says to people like us is, "Don't give up! Keep going!"

When faced with persecution and hardship for simply being Christians, many Jews who embraced Jesus at first found themselves longing for the "easier" and "less wearisome" path of Judaism. The Hebrews writer counsels them their weariness to never consider giving up their hope and confidence obtained through Jesus Christ (Heb. 10:35-39). In chapter 12, he gives several practical things to look at when perseverance is hard:

Look around (12:1a). The witnesses of those who lived faithfully stand as encouragements of people who, by faithfulness, made it through their own times when they wanted to give up (reread Heb. 11).

Look at yourself (12:1b). There may be things you are carrying that are sinful that are tripping you up. There are also things that you're carrying that may not be sinful, but are weighing you down. Give those things up! What do I need to change to persevere (2 Cor. 13:5)?

Look at Jesus (12:2-4). Remember Jesus persevered when He was facing perhaps the most brutal way man has ever invented to kill another. He wanted to do anything but (Matt. 26:39). Yet, He persevered through the cross and became the example "lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls" (12:3).

Look at the trial itself (12:5-12). What you are facing and going through, God purposes to refine your character (Jas. 1:2-4). Stay faithful through the difficulty. Don't give up, don't give in! Remember God is with you!

I think Hebrews 12:12-13 ought to be written on our mirrors every morning. God who works through pain will bring healing if we stick it out! Don't give up! Keep going!

With Him, the best is yet to be!

'LIFE IS NOT A BED OF ROSES'

Raymond Elliott

Sometimes the valleys in life are deep and long. But it is not a time to give up. Blaming God and leaving the Lord would not be the answer. Gold refined by fire rids the dross and makes it purer (I Peter 1:7). I think of this passage in Proverbs 24:10, "If you faint in the day of adversity, Your strength is small." There was a time when many of the disciples of the Lord left Him and He asked His own apostles, "Do you also want to go away?" It was then that Simon Peter answered, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. "Also we have come to believe and know You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (John 6:66-69). It is in the valleys of life that I need Him. He has never forsaken me and why should I forsake him. He is my Rock and my salvation. He is my Hightower; my shelter in the time of the storms. He gives me comfort in the night. His strength is greatly manifested in weakness. I have often requested of Him to bestow His grace upon me so that I might see the sun beyond the overcast and the silver lining behind every cloud. And His grace is sufficient for me. A moving verse is found in James 4:6 which is a simple but a very profound statement, "But He gives more grace." Here is a precious promise of our Heavenly Father, "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me" (Psalm 50:15). Also we find in Psalm 46:1 that "God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble." The following hymn explains best what I am trying to say:

HE GIVETH MORE GRACE

By Annie J. Flint

(1866-1932)

He giveth more grace as our burdens grow greater,
He sendeth more strength as our labors increase;
To added afflictions He addeth His mercy,
To multiplied trials He multiplies peace.
When we have exhausted our store of endurance,
When our strength has failed ere the day is half done,
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources
Our father's full giving is only begun.
Fear not that thy need shall exceed His provision,
Our God ever yearns His resources to share;
Lean hard on the arm everlasting, availing;
The Father both thee and thy load will upbear.
His love has no limits, His grace has no measure,
His power no boundary known unto men;
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again.

- THE TRIUMPHANT STORY of

ANNIE JOHNSON FLINT

By Rowland V. Bingham

January 16, 2022



Meeting Days and Times

Sunday 9:00 am

Wednesday (via Zoom) Bible Class, singing & prayer - 6:00 pm

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