

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

JULY 2012

SURRENDERING TO PERFECTION

The word surrender has such a negative connotation, but surrender is exactly what our Creator God wants from us. When we surrender to Him and His perfect character, we will be led by a King who is perfectly good, perfectly loving, and has a perfect plan for all of creation. The Maker of the heavens and the Earth knows what is best for us. He loves us more than anyone on this planet. He knows the exact plan for our life that will lead us to our maximum potential for both this life and the next. Surrendering is difficult to do, especially when life throws some really hard obstacles at us. God has given us a great example of surrendering even when life can't get any worse in the book of Job.

Job was a very righteous man who got a lesson in surrendering. God held him in the highest regard and said that there was no one else like him in all the earth (Job 1:8). God volunteered Job to Satan so that He could use Job in mighty ways. The part of the story that Job was missing in the beginning was the reason behind the personal tragedy that was coming his way. God allowed

Satan to take away Job's wealth, his children, and then his health and comfort. Satan thought for sure that Job would curse God, but the Lord knew Job would not. While Job was suffering great loss and physical pain, he was pleading his case and trying to find the reasoning behind the suffering. In chapter 9, Job outlines what his powerful God was ca-



pable of and then in verse 17 he says all of his suffering is for no reason. Several friends come and accuse Job of sinfulness and direct him to repent, (but Job knows this to be untrue). He understands that he is not without sin, but knows of nothing of which he has not repented. His frustrations mount in chapter 29 as he spews out a self-centered discourse on what his life used to be like. In this chapter, Job uses the words "I", "me", or "my" 49 times in

the New International version. Yes, Job is faithful and obedient and never cursed God through all of this suffering, but he was still missing the point that his younger friend Elihu makes in verse 5 of chapter 36. Elihu states that God is mighty and firm in His purpose. Elihu calls for Job's surrender to the Lord, but the final white flag is not raised until God directly speaks to Job in the beginning of chapter 38, "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me." These words and the words following through chapter 41 would humble any heavenly creature, let alone a human being. Finally in chapter 42, Job surrenders to the realization that God was using him for a higher purpose and that he should never doubt God's perfect plans.

The act of surrender is tough under normal circumstances, but really difficult when we find ourselves suffering in some way. Humbly looking to the Lord for comfort in troubling times is ex-

SURRENDERING TO PERFECTION (CONTINUED)

actly what He wants from us. Submission shows a faithful reverence and is absolutely necessary for our spiritual growth. It also helps us to focus on His perfect attributes which will develop our reliance on God and His love and goodness. Falling before the Lord for strength and peace when the world expects us to crumble also breaks the will of Satan as he tries to ruin us.

Releasing all of our concerns to our loving Savior God shows all those around us that it doesn't matter what happens to us in this world. We will be carried through any trial on the wings of a perfect Savior.

No matter what is happening in life, we must trust in God's perfection and the belief that He is **always** working for the good of those that love Him (Romans 8:28). God has a perfect plan to lead us through every

tragedy and sorrow. When that dreadful phone call comes or the sudden loss of a loved one occurs, know that we can surrender to perfection because God knew we could handle the kingdom mission of suffering for a higher purpose that was planned for God's glory from before creation.

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deductible contribution, ask a question regarding the S.M.I.L.E. program, or share a prayer request or faith journey, please contact us at:

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Christian Fitness Ministries' Flame Team will be hosting Greg & Betty Chalfant on Wednesday, July 25th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in Calvin Hall at First Presbyterian Church in Greenville. The Chalfants live in Tianjin, China where Greg has lived for the past four years. After completing Chinese language study, Greg worked as a business manager at New Century Language & Culture Center for the past two years. After getting married last October, Betty joined Greg in Tianjin and has been studying Chinese. They are part of a team that is attempting to help locals establish new churches in Tianjin. The entire community is welcome & encouraged to attend to hear how they are sharing God's love with the people of China.

On August 22nd The Flame Team of Greenville will again be meeting in Calvin Hall of First Presbyterian Church to assemble another set of care packages to send to those serving in the Armed Forces overseas. We will be sending a set to the unit of a friend who is serving as a surgeon in the Army. If you know of anyone else that is serving and would like to receive a package, please contact Josh at josh@cfmini.com by August 1st.