



## Lemoore church of Christ

April 5, 2020

### Adversity Makes us Bitter or Better By Dan Jenkins

David makes some truly amazing statements in Psalms which allows us to look into his heart and learn why he was so special to God. How do we become what he was since God has such high regard for him even from his youth? His words express the kind of heart he had. If we spend time making his words our words we will be changed. Perhaps we, too, can be described as a "man after God's own heart."

Both first and second Samuel tell us about the life of David and all the trials he faced. They began shortly after he killed Goliath when jealous King Saul sought to take his life. He gained the favor of the people around him, and the evil king sent his army to kill David. He almost did not become king as that army was almost successful in taking the life of the young "giant killer." His friendship with Saul's son, Jonathan, often enabled him to escape. Years later, David again had immeasurable adversity when his own son led a rebellion against him.

So, how did he view such trials? Read his words, and they may change how we look at life. David said, "It is good that I was afflicted." Our first reaction is that such could not be right! How on earth could any suffering be seen as good? Read the rest of the verse. David said, "It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes" (Psalm 119:71). David understood a lesson which each of us should learn early in our life. If our life has little misery and shows the kind

of heart we have. It is so important to learn that adversity makes us bitter or better.

The apostle Paul understood this same truth. In his second letter to Corinth, he gave a list of many of the trials he had endured, then he said, "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Cor. 12:10). Read the verse again—infirmities, reproaches, needs, persecutions, distresses. Pleasure in all of this? How strange! But what insight David and Paul had into how to deal with all that life brings.

How do we decide what things are good and what things are bad in our life? Here is a rule which might change our whole view of life. Anything which draws me closer to God is good, and anything which keeps me from God is evil.

So, let's ask ourselves, any good thing happening in our life right now? Think about it.

#### Five Minutes with God: This week:

Sunday	Day 96	Matthew 12:43-45
Monday	Day 97	Matthew 12:46-50
Tuesday	Day 98	Luke 8:1-3
Wednesday	Day 99	Matthew 13:1-9
Thursday	Day 100	Matthew 13:18-23
Friday	Day 101	Matthew 13:10-17
Saturday	Day 102	Matthew 13:24-27

#### Don't Quit

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will;  
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill;

When funds are low and the debts are high;  
And you want to smile but you have to sigh.

When all is pressing you down a bit-

Rest if you must, but don't you quit

Success is failure turned inside out;

The silver tints on clouds of doubt;

And you can never tell how close you are;

It may be near when it seems far.

So, stick to the fight when you're hardest hit-

It's when things go wrong that you must not  
quit.

John Greenleaf Whittier

### **Prayer List:**

Bodie, friend of Bailey Radcliff, diagnosed with 2 brain tumors.

Rita Frankmore is in a hospital in Fresno, but may be transferred to San Francisco.

Larry Gamble was evaluated at the hospital for a blood clot. The test was negative.

Lora Virden had another heart attack. She spent time in Hanford hospital and is at Becky's in Coarsegold.

Red Cooper had an angiogram in Fresno On Wednesday. He will be meeting with a surgeon regarding an aortic valve replacement.

Dennis Chamberlain recovering at home  
Jr. Gutierrez living in a highly infected area of So. California.

Jeff McCord temporarily off work during COVID  
Ken and Darla McCord moving to Tenn. In April  
Randy McCord recovering from procedure that provided pain relief.

Gary Radcliff, Garth's father, is currently cancer free but may have radiation again in the future.

Kim Cargill, Stephanie Tischmacher's stepmom finished treatment – getting stronger

Marlon Raygoza that he gets the supervision he needs to make positive changes in his life.

Linda Frye, Cancer

Bill Fox, co-worker of Frank Baldwin, blood clots in his legs but has returned to work.

Angie and Tito Cano-no active cancer was found in PET scan-on maintenance meds

Alexis Raygoza is recovering from health issues.

Bart Massey, friend of Dixie Blair, stage 4 stomach cancer

Doug Standridge having tests to discover source of infection

Casey Case Jr ongoing oncology treatment

- Agape Village
- Crossover Ministry
- City of Children
- Manuelito's Children's Home
- Church of Christ Disaster relief Fund
- World Christian Broadcasting

Please email updates and additions to Denise at [djdean1956@yahoo.com](mailto:djdean1956@yahoo.com)

*Events list will return to the bulletin when our shelter in place is lifted.*

### **Our Mission Work:**

- First Responders including many of our members/family:

Nicole McCord Director of pre-natal building

Katelyn McCord working in the ER

Zeb Reid Deputy Sheriff in Tulare County

Christy Reid working in Pharmacy

Martin Gutierrez working officer in So. CA

- Preachers in Nicaragua