

Church of Christ

... Heart to Heart ...

Many people live selfish lives. They go from day to day, living after their thoughts, their wants, completely blinded from their real spiritual condition. They may state how important God is, but it is only words. One day, a personal tragedy strikes and their self-consuming world is shaken to the core. A wreck, a serious health issue, a death in the family are major factors at waking people up spiritually, getting them to focus on what is most important. You hear people speak at times of difficulties, *“It makes you realize what is most important!”* The sad part is it took a tragedy to get them to realize their spiritual state, but if it is recognized with a proper response, it is good. We need hurt sometimes to get us to realize that it’s not about us and our little lives!

God did not send suffering into our world, but He did send the message that in Christ Jesus, He would take care of us and make us able to face sufferings and death with courage and hope. **“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to the will of God.” (Rom. 8:28)** It’s one thing to live with personal health issues, wondering, questioning why it has to be this way but what is worse is to live with personal health issues without purpose or hope! God promised through His Son that no matter what difficulties arise, what issues we face, He would work it together for the good to those who sincerely, genuinely love Him, for those who follow His purpose and will. The realities of pain and suffering can be made to serve a most wonderful purpose in giving us a greater hope in Him. Our faith in God is to drive us to His side, knowing that what difficulties or heartaches we face are not meaningless, but with our permission, our lives will grow into something that has been lacking, helping us to become less selfish and to gain more hope and joy. **“Consider it all joy, my brethren when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” (Jam. 1:2-4)**

I wish it didn’t take personal pain to get our attention, but if it is deemed as necessary, know that in Jesus, you’re not in it alone and God will make sure you realize you won’t go through it alone. It all depends on our faith and trust in His Son and where we have placed our hope. Think about it!!!

Brent