

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

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Troubles

"No one can say of his house, 'There is no trouble here.'" – Oriental Proverb

"The really happy man is the one who can enjoy the scenery even when he has to take a detour."
– Anonymous

"I have had many troubles in my life, but the worst of them never came." – James Garfield

"It is usually not so much the greatness of our trouble as the littleness of our spirit which makes us complain." – Jeremy Taylor

"The more you talk about your troubles, the harder it is to find somebody who will listen." – Anonymous

Okay, so we have at least something in common in that all of us have troubles. One of the hardest things to ask folks is, "How are you?" For some it is a simple, "Fine." For others, it is a dissertation in every imaginable trouble someone might have. After a while, one learns the art of whom to ask, "How are you?" and those whom not to ask.

Since we know that all of us face troubles, the key has to be in how we face them. We find that Scripture emphasizes that the righteous have a great advantage in facing the various trials of life. "He who earnestly seeks good finds favor, but trouble will come to him who seeks evil" (Prov. 11:27). "The wicked is ensnared by the transgression of his lips, but the righteous will come through trouble" (Prov. 12:13). "In the house of the righteous there is much treasure, but in the revenue of the wicked is trouble" (Prov. 15:6).

These thoughts are not to suggest that we never have difficulties. The key is that we can persevere because of the strength we draw from God. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13).

For the child of God there are troubles that arise because of our faith. But here again, it is the attitude toward them that makes the difference. "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing" (James 1:2-4).

When we manage to retire one obstacle of trouble, be assured another is just around the proverbial bend. Expect it, and prepare for it. Too many have allowed their troubles in life to shipwreck their faith. They have blamed God and turned from Him, instead of embracing Him and seeking the strength to endure.