

“Flying Closer To The Flame”

May 12, 2007 * Proverbs 2:1-7

I. What do we followers of Jesus do when life goes bad?

What’s the right order?

- 3** *The feelings we have about life.*
- 1** *The facts of what God’s Word says about our lives.*
- 2** *The faith we place in what God says to us.*

An example of how this works:

You look in the mirror and feel ugly and worthless – what do you do next to do it God’s way?

Call to mind God’s promises – that you are fearfully and wonderfully made, that you are a temple of the Spirit, that you are made in the image of God, etc. – then make a conscience decision of the will to believe those promises, then watch as your feelings get in line with God’s Word.

II. In order for this to work, there’s one thing God asks of us when we go through tough times:

WE’VE GOT TO RUN INTO GOD’S ARMS.

A. What did Moses do when he experienced frustration as a leader of God’s people?

Ran to his “tent of meeting” to be with God – a special place he set up outside the camp. Ex.33:1ff

B. What did David do when Saul was hunting him down?
He made it his goal to seek God frequently (Ps.27).

C. What did Jesus do to cope with all the demands of ministry?
Luke 5:15-16

III. Can trials actually be good for a Christian or a church?

A. Scriptures:

Romans 5:3-4; James 1:2; Hebrews 12:7

IV. The First Step To Experiencing More of God

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW TO EXPERIENCE MORE OF GOD IN YOUR LIFE, IF YOU WANT TO LEARN HOW TO FLY CLOSER TO THE FLAME OF HEAVEN, IF YOU WANT TO LEARN HOW TO HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD LEADING YOUR LIFE, THEN THIS IS WHERE IT ALL BEGINS: GETTING ON YOUR FACE BEFORE HIM, WITH AN OPEN BIBLE AND AN OPEN HEART AND AN OPEN NOTEBOOK TO WRITE DOWN EVERYTHING WHICH COMES YOUR WAY.

V. We Should Read Our Bible In Two Ways:

A. First, we should study the Bible one book at a time.

1. What should I do if I am young in the faith?
Follow an organized reading plan with the goal of reading through the entire Bible.

2. Why is it important to read the Bible like this?
God in his wisdom revealed his truth to us in an organized, thematic way. We need to study it as he revealed it. This insures that the truth we learn is from God and not something we just make up. This is also safe – it keeps us from misunderstanding or misinterpreting the Bible to make it say what we want.

B. A second way to read the Bible – “watches”

1. What’s this?

Periodically reading Scripture throughout the day, poring over passages at “random”, reading a proverb or psalm, looking for verses in the Daily Bread or Bible study books which speak to my heart, responding to that “still, small voice” inside of me.

2. Warning Will Robinson!

**WATCHES ARE NO REPLACEMENT FOR STUDYING THE BIBLE
BOOK BY BOOK!**