



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 16, April 17, 2018 / Southside Baptist Church / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / The Grow in Grace Newsletter is a **WEEKLY Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church; and is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Savior JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

‘B.R.S.’— Broken Rope Syndrome! [Part 3 of 3] (Edited from ***WHEN YOUR ROPE BREAKS***, by Stephen Brown)

VIII. BEWARE OF DISCOURAGEMENT!

One of the great problems with *broken ropes* is the discouragement which follows... **SO HOW does one deal with discouragement?**

***** The great cloud of witnesses**— One of the keys to dealing with discouragement is found in Hebrews 12:1-3. God tells us that we are surrounded by witnesses! (See Heb. 11:36-39) On many pages of Scripture is that we are given historical accounts, both good and bad, of those who have gone before us— God-given pathfinders for us!

***** The problem of guilt**— The passage quoted from Hebrews 12 not only informs us that we have company, but also reminds us that we have been forgiven... and many other Scriptures reveal the path of freedom from sin's guilt and power (Romans 6 & 8; 1 John 1:9)

***** Power to endure**— We are empowered to endure our broken ropes by "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith". (Hebrews 12:2; Matt. 14:28-32)

REALITY: The principle is the same no matter the circumstances— either Jesus is there or He isn't. Either Jesus does have something

to do with your situation or He doesn't. If He doesn't you have a whole lot bigger problem than discouragement! But the Scripture is clear about His involvement. (Rom. 8:28-39)

Important Truth to Remember When We're Discouraged!

1. Remember the past. (Job 8:8-10) When you look at the history of God's people and when you look to your own past, you can see **God's past faithfulness and love**— meditate upon this reality! (Psalm 77:10-13)

2. Remember the facts. (Eph. 6:13-14) God through Paul says that we need to depend on truth for support— Facts are the reality, not our feelings about the facts. **"Never doubt in the dark what God has taught you in the light!"**

3. Remember the process. When your rope is broken and you are discouraged, don't forget that God works out His purpose in the process. (Ps. 37:23-24) God works in us, changing our thinking and changing our behavior. In time, positive change in feelings will follow.

4. Look to the future. When your rope has broken and you are discouraged, don't forget the future. (I Cor. 15:51-54; John 14:1-2)

IX. DOES MY FATHER KNOW I'M HURTING?

The Father knows. Sovereign God allows and/or brings broken ropes because of His love. **The place broken ropes**— it is not a pleasant place to visit, but everyone must go there at one time or another. The place of broken ropes will not always exist. It is only temporary; and God who is love is in the midst!

Meeting God in the silence— It is hard to bear the silence of God; but in that place, (and sometimes only in that place), you meet God. (Job 42:2-3, 5) After the silence, you will meet Him. And to meet God **sometimes makes your visit to the place of**

broken ropes worth all the pain and suffering and hurt.

The Wounded Healer — when you meet God at the place of broken ropes, you will notice something else you/we easily forget. You will notice **nail scars in His hands**. You will know that the reason He speaks with authority is because the place of broken ropes is His place too. (I Peter 4:1; Heb. 5:8; Heb. 4:15) Thus, it is in the places and paths of ‘broken ropes’ that God often accomplishes His greatest works! **GOT BROKEN ROPES? — GOD IS UP TO SOMETHING!** (Acts 2:22-23; Ps. 105:17-22)

X. Broken Ropes Have a Way of Revealing REALITY!

A broken rope will make you sensitive to others who have broken ropes. (I Peter 5:9) Also, most people first arriving at the place of broken ropes congregate with others who have recently arrived. **Gradually, two groups begin to emerge.** (Luke 6:47-49) When dealing with **broken ropes** you will either be drawn to God **or** you will walk farther and farther from Him. **THE BROKEN ROPES DON'T CAUSE EITHER!**

As in Jesus' parable, you will find whether your house is built on rock or on sand. **BROKEN ROPES REVEAL THE TRUE CONDITION OF OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD.** RESPONSESS to broken ropes reveal separation between the group drawn to God and the group walking away.

When the storms of life are raging, all those who flee to Christ for refuge will go forth knowing, **“THEREFORE GOD IS NOT ASHAMED TO BE CALLED THEIR GOD, FOR HE HAS PREPARED A CITY FOR THEM”** (Hebrews 11:16).

XI. PRINCIPALITIES, POWERS, AND RULERS OF THE DARK. (Ephesians 6:10-18) **Could it be. . . satan?** Job 1:9-12; Job 2:3-7.

**** Facts about ‘broken ropes’ as they apply to**

satan/demonic forces:

1. SATAN IS Alive, Angry, and a LIAR! The first thing you ought to notice about satan is that he is alive and angry. (Revelation 12:12-17)

The Bible exposes satan as the liar, the accuser, the dragon, the serpent, and the ruler of the world. Jesus saw the unbelief of many religious people as the result of satan's work: (John 8:43-44) There may be NO DEADLIER BONDAGE than that of lies and deception— **TO LIE IS TO HUG THE DEVIL!** Satan sought to sift Peter as wheat: (Luke 22:31-32) A discussion of broken ropes without a discussion of satan would be like discussing World War II without discussing Adolph Hitler!

2. Under God's Control! Second, not only do we learn from Job that satan is **alive and angry**, but we also learn that **satan is controlled**. Satan, though alive and angry, is an enemy who is 100% under God's almighty sovereignty. (Job 1:7-12; 2:2-6; Col. 2:15; Rev. 20:10). **Satan is alive, evil, and ANGRY!** (Revelation 12)

Nevertheless, we must be careful not to give satan credit for too many broken ropes. If satan has anything to do with your broken rope, he has done only what SOVEREIGN GOD has either allowed or purposefully ordained. **Job was right in his worship of God to give satan no credit!** (Job 1:20-22; 2:9-10)

[NOTE: I normally refuse to capitalize the words, 'satan' or the 'devil'... PROPER English may demand that 'proper names and titles' be capitalized—but this rascal ain't proper!]

3. The Student of God. Third, satan is learning. (Job 1:8; Job 2:3) The Scriptures indicate that we are being viewed by supernatural beings and that we might increase their knowledge and praise of God.

(Ephesians 3:10) Alfred Martin wrote that this verse gave “further indication that heavenly beings are observing the Church and seeing in the Church the unfolding of God’s wisdom. Both good and evil angels are evidently amazed at the working of God as seen in redeemed men and women.”

If God wants to use my broken rope as a model to Satan of the sufficiency of God’s grace, I don’t like it, but I will accept it! LET IT BE SO, TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

GOD IS interested in showing an unbelieving world the difference in the way Christians deal with suffering and hurt and fear. If He is interested in showing the same thing to satan, I’m glad to be a part of his education plan.

THE BOOK OF JOB: We can see **that satan’s idea is that God is worshiped by humans only because God blesses them with good things**— take away the blessings and health... and humans will see God as one worthy only to be cursed. **JOB DISPLAYED TO THE WATCHING WORLD** in both the earthly realm and in the spirit realm that (so far as he was concerned), **GOD WAS WORTHY OF WORSHIP!** **Job’s wife** believed and confessed satan’s lie.

BROKEN ROPES give us a grand opportunity to expose satan as the liar that he is by giving God the worship He deserves!

4. A Defeated Foe. Fourth, not only is satan alive and angry, controlled and learning, but satan also is, for all intents and purposes, defeated. (Col. 2:15) Satan is **DOOMED**, he knows it... he acts as if he doesn’t know it. (Revelation 12)

5. A Silent Enemy. Finally, from the book of Job we learn that satan is sometimes not recognized. Although I don't believe we should start looking for satan under every bed and behind every corner, I do believe that we ought to be aware of his presence and alert to his activity! (1 Peter 5:8-9)

XII. If satan is involved in my broken rope, what can I do?

1. Learn to Use the truth. (Ephesians 6:14; 6:17) **IF in the midst of** Broken Ropes, you feel that God has deserted you, affirm the truth of His love for you. (Revelation 1:5) **IF you think** that you will be destroyed, affirm the truth that God has given you eternal life in His Son. **IF you start** believing that God is punishing you— affirm that He chastens His children. He does not punish them. (Hebrews 12:5-11) **DEFEAT EVERY** fiery dart of the wicked one by grace provided armor! (Eph. 6:10-18)

2. Resist Satan! (1 Peter 5:9; James 4:7) **HOW? — By SUBMITTING TO GOD!**

3. Make prayer your Hidden Resource. God's hand is not shortened that He cannot save you (Isaiah 59:1; Ephesians 6:18))

4. Submit to God in Everything. (James 4:7) **Satan has incredible public relations.** He is blamed for everything from dry cows to cancer. But he isn't as powerful as his public releases would suggest. Only God has the kind of power satan claims. **REMEMBER: GOD IS AT WORK! LOVE HIM and experience the good He is working!** (Romans 8:28-39)

DOES MY FATHER KNOW I'M HURTING? (This portion is a repeat of POINT IX ... **It is repeated here for emphasis as we conclude.**)

*** **The Father Knows.** A sovereign God allows and/or brings broken ropes because of His GOOD PLEASURE and GOOD PURPOSES.

*** **The Place Broken Ropes.** There is a place of broken ropes. It is not a pleasant place to visit, but everyone must go there at one time or another. The place of broken ropes will not always exist. It is only temporary, God is in the midst and He is love.

*** **Meeting God in the silence.** It is hard to bear the silence of God. But in that place, and sometimes only in that place, you meet God. (Job 42:2-3, 5) If you want to meet the living God, you almost always have to go to the place of broken ropes. After the silence, you will meet Him. And to meet God **makes your visit to the place of broken ropes** worth all the pain and suffering and hurt.

*** **The Wounded Healer.** When you meet God at the place of broken ropes, you will notice something else you didn't expect. You will notice nail scars in His hands. You will know that the reason He speaks with authority is because the place of broken ropes is His place too. (I Peter 4:1; Heb. 5:8; Heb. 4:15) It is in the places and paths of 'broken ropes' that God accomplishes some of His greatest work!

GOT BROKEN ROPES? — GOD IS UP TO SOMETHING! (Acts 2:22-23; Ps. 105:17-22)

Broken Ropes Have a Way of Revealing REALITY!

A broken rope will/CAN/SHOULD make you sensitive to others who have broken ropes, (I Peter 5:9). When you go to the place of broken ropes you will find not only fellowship but also a subtle but real separation. **Most people first arriving at the place of broken ropes congregate with others who have recently arrived... Gradually, two groups begin to emerge.** (Luke

6:47-49)

In the place of broken ropes you will either be drawn to God or you will walk farther from Him.

THE BROKEN ROPES DON'T CAUSE EITHER.

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BROKEN ROPES REVEAL THE TRUE CONDITION OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD. Broken ropes reveal separation between the group drawn to God and the group walking away.

When the storms of life are raging, all those who have fled and/or those who now flee to Christ for refuge will go forth knowing,

"THEREFORE GOD IS NOT ASHAMED TO BE CALLED THEIR GOD,

FOR HE HAS PREPARED A CITY FOR THEM" (Hebrews 11:16).

Grace to all in Christ!

James Bell

www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

MONDAYS: Jail Ministry— First and Second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Questions? Call the church office at 615-452-5951

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care Nursing Home. Meet at the front door at **5:15PM.**

WEDNESDAYS:

☐ **6:30pm— Children Ministry/activities;**

☐ 6:30pm— **Youth** Activities and Bible Study— **(Enter via double doors by gym)**

☐ **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE...** (Enter via IRON STEPS; or double doors by gym)

***** LADIES BIBLE STUDY— Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 24 @ 11:00am; Continuing in LUKE 13.** ENTER at the back of the church building, through double doors, under the Drive Thru Awning. [*Doors **open** at 10:30am... The doors are **re-locked** at 11:10am*]

***** MEN: EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am:** Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! (***STUDY: THE EPISTLE OF JAMES!***) ENTER AT THE back of Church building... under the drive-thru awning. **FELLOWSHIP, Juice, coffee, Hardee's biscuits, & Donuts WAITING, starting at 7:30am!**

WATCH and SHARE the Preaching of the Word of God!

http://www.southsidegallatin.org/Listen_to_other_sermons_on_sermonaudio/

SUNDAY SERVICES: APRIL 2018— 22, 29

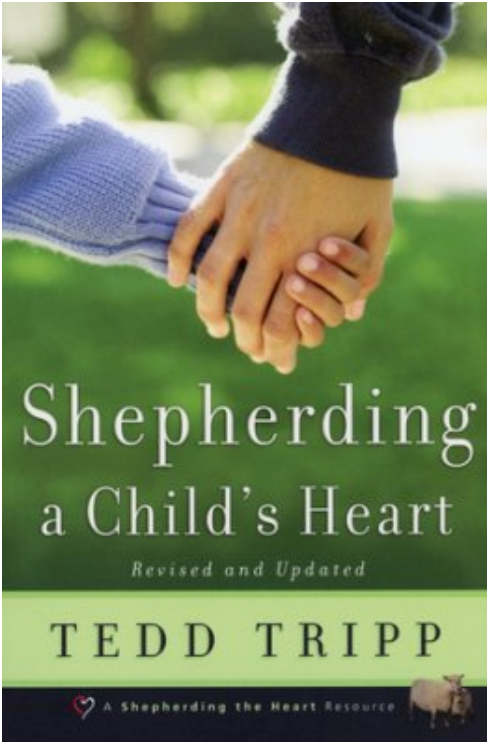
ALL SUNDAYS:

***Sunday School at 9:30am
and Worship at 10:45am***

SUNDAY SERVICES, special notes— 22

April 22, 6:00pm- 7:00pm—

Family Integrated EQUIPPING Night!



Meet in Auditorium, come in FRONT DOORS! (Doors will open at 5:30pm, 4/22/18)

1. FAMILY INTEGRATED, that is, it is for the WHOLE family— Grandparents, Parents, Teens, Children. (Infant & Toddler Nursery available)

2. All grandparents and parents have FAMILIES in your world who need help, counseling, advice, mentoring— THESE 4TH Sunday Evenings will help you with your own children and grandchildren... as well as EMPOWERING you for ministry to your

neighbors!

3. Tedd Tripp's SHEPHERDING a Child's Heart, 12 session series.

4. Arrive and be IN YOUR SEATS by 5:55pm... Session will start at 6:00pm sharp. Sessions will last approximately one hour

4. April 29: 6:00pm... Fifth Sunday Evening Praise & WORSHIP!

THIS WILL BE A GLORIOUS SCRIPTURE and HYMN FEST with one and all LIFTING THEIR VOICES to God in worship!

***THEME FOR THE EVENING: GLORYING IN THE CROSS!
THEREFORE, COME PREPARED TO SHARE SCRIPTURES
WHICH WILL HELP US TO 'GLORY IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST!
[IN ADVANCE... give us the Scripture you would like to read or
have read; and the hymns you would like for the congregation to
sing unto the LORD... which fit with this theme!]***