



**GROW
IN
GRACE
NEWSLETTER**

ALERT: A GOOD NUMBER OF US HAVE SEEN and read much of the following before! **SO WHAT? THE ISSUE IS THAT IN MY PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES— I and MOST OF US need to APPLY THESE TRUTHS! SO LET IT BE!**

Volume 45, No. 47, November 24, 2020 / 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 JESUS CHRIST!"***

[THERAPY: To nurse or to cure. **GIVING THANKS and LIVING A LIFE OF THANKSGIVING 'NURSES' US TO SOUND MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL HEALTH' AS WELL AS GIVING PROPER HONOR TO GOD. At the root of all the horrible sins set forth in Romans 1:18-32... IS A REFUSAL, (Romans 1:21) TO SUBMIT TO GOD and a refusal to BE THANKFUL!]**

[**GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY: IT IS FAR MORE COMMON TO GIVE INTELLECTUAL AGREEMENT to the important Biblical revelation as to the SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD— than it is to REST IN the comfort of God's sovereignty when trouble and trial come our way!**

To start with, we have to face up to the 'BAD' news! (Job 3:23-26) All is not right with the world. Long before we were born something bad happened called the Fall, and today we are dealing with the repercussions. *** **Because of the Fall**, the whole creation groans in the aftermath of sin's continuing consequences. (Gen. 3:17b-19; Romans 8:20-22) Living in a fallen world, you are going to have to live with the implications of a fallen world. That means that you have to face the fact of natural disasters! **And instead of being angry at God— Be angry at sin!** *The good news is you have been invited to a party. The bad*

news is that it isn't your party! But once you understand the One for whom the party is given, all things considered, it isn't such a bad party after all!

*** **God is working His plan, not ours.** Our fallen nature is egocentric. That's another way of saying that most of us, in our heart of hearts, believe that the world revolves around us. The Bible teaches that the world was not created for us; it was created by and for God. (Isa. 40:25; Rom. 1:20; Ps. 19:1; Rev. 4:11) God has created the world for His reasons and not for ours. Believe it or not, that is **very good news!** (Above section is edited from WHEN YOUR ROPE BREAKS, BY Stephen Brown)

WHAT FOLLOWS IS A 'POSITIVE EXAMPLE' of the power of embracing God's sovereignty and of GIVING THANKS! (What follows is edited from THANK YOU THERAPY, by Don Baker)

MIRACLES from God's Sovereignty and GIVING THANKS!

"But you don't know how it feels to look like this!" Those were the words of a 32-year-old woman **confined to a body the size of a baby's** -- and yet different from a baby's. I first noticed her after speaking to a group of singles. She was seated on a couch with her tiny body propped up on a pillow. **She had no legs and no arms.**

She had never had any legs or arms. There was a small deformed finger stretching out from her right shoulder. It was the only appendage on her body. Her head was normal. Her hair was light brown. Her face was attractive. Her smile was completely disarming.

I walked over to ask her name. "**Carol,**" she replied. "**I'm glad to meet you, Carol.** Tell me," I asked, "how do you get from that place on the couch into your electrically operated wheelchair?"

Does somebody have to lift you?" She smiled at my curiosity.
"No, nobody has to lift me. I'll show you."

With that, she began energetically wiggling herself up onto the arm of the couch, stretched across the couch arm and then proceeded, wormlike, unto the seat of her wheelchair. Slowly she struggled, without help, into an upright position, pushed and pulled herself against the back of the chair, and triumphantly said,
"There -- nothing to it."

She was open and friendly. I was deeply curious. I sat down beside her, studied her carefully, and asked, "What happened, Carol?" "I was born like this." "What caused it?" "I don't really know."

"Were you a thalidomide baby?" "It's possible," she said. I had never seen a thalidomide baby, but had read about them and had seen pictures of some of the hideous deformities caused when expectant mothers ingested a drug that was supposed to eliminate morning sickness. Thousands of unborn babies were affected in the 1950s in Europe and the United States. Most of them died.

"Are you in school?" "Yes, I'm in my seventh year of college." "How are your grades?" "I'm passing -- with difficulty, but I'm passing." "How much can you do by yourself?" "Quite a bit. Probably more than you think, but I do need help most of the time."

"How do you feel about yourself?" "Sometimes I feel cheated," she said. "Will you ever be able to get married?" "I'd like to." "Can you bear children?" "No."

"What's the most difficult thing you do each day?" *"Look in the mirror. There are times when I feel almost normal. Then I take a look at myself. Sometimes it literally makes me sick."*

"Have you ever asked God to work a miracle in your body and suddenly provide you with instant legs and arms?" "Oh yes. That was my daily prayer when I was younger."

"Do you still ask for that?" **"No. For a long time I asked to die.** You don't know what it feels like to live in a body like this."

"Don't you ask to die any longer?" "No." "Why?" **"I learned something... Something about God that changed my life.** Since that time, I'm still limited -- I'm still crippled -- I'm still deformed, but I'm at peace."

"What did you learn?"

A small group of fascinated bystanders drew closer to the little circle of friends and listened in silence. **"I learned that God made me this way,"** she said. "God made you like that?" I asked. **"Well, not really.**

God never makes anything that looks like this. Everything that God makes is perfect. No, God didn't make me like this, **but God allowed me to be born this way. And if God allowed me to be born this way, it must have been for a purpose.** When I realized that God allowed me to be born this way, I stopped complaining and began praising Him!"

"How did you learn that? Did someone teach it to you?" "No, I don't think so. I'm sure many people tried, but I just couldn't accept it.

One day I had my Bible propped up in front of me. I was reading the Book of Job and feeling sorry for myself. As I turned the pages with a pencil clamped between my teeth, I suddenly realized that Job's hideous pain was no accident.

Neither was it caused by God. But God allowed it. **Nothing happens in the life of one of God's children without first receiving God's permission.** God could have stopped all that was happening to Job -- He can do that you know," she said with a twinkle in her eye-- "but He didn't.

He could have given me a beautiful, healthy, normal body, but He didn't. When I realized that, I stopped fighting and pleading. I began just praising Him and thanking Him -- and you know what has happened?"

"No, what's happened?" I asked. **"I'm at peace!"** She laughed as if she had discovered earth's best-kept secret. Her friends applauded. I said, "Thank You, Father" for another example of a life-changing truth.

Thank-You Therapy is not a psychological tool designed to lessen the impact of life's problems; it's a spiritual truth determined to refocus our attention. **Its purpose is not** intended to change circumstances; its purpose is to change attitudes.

It's not life's circumstances that create anxiety; it's our own responses to them. Most of us don't like what we see when we look in the mirror. **We don't have to be deformed to be discontent!**

Thank-You Therapy is prayer coupled with thanksgiving: Philippians 4:6-7, Amplified Bible: ⁶Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition

(definite requests), **with thanksgiving**, continue to make your wants known to God. ⁷**And God's peace [shall be yours, that tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and being content with its earthly lot of whatever sort that is, that peace] which transcends all understanding shall garrison and mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.**

God's Sovereignty, Prayer, Thanksgiving, and Peace!

Sovereignty has to do with God's authority -- His control -- His supremacy in command of everything. **Sovereignty** is God's rule and overrule over all. **Sovereignty is God's freedom to do as He pleases, when He pleases, with whom He pleases.** That's the remarkable lesson of the Book of Job. **Sovereign** means that God was free to do with Job exactly as He pleased. (Romans, chapters 8,9,10 and 11 also give bold revelations of God's sovereignty!)

That God is Sovereign means that God is free to function as God. **God does not report to a committee! He does not poll us for opinions or submit to our votes.** God is God and God is Sovereign and free to act when He pleases, where He pleases, as He pleases and with whom He pleases. **God is only limited by His own nature -- That is, he will never act out of character or contrary to His own nature.**

God was ruling and over ruling in Job's life; and He ruled and over rules in Carol's life ... and in your life and mine. He sets up kings. He puts them down. He does all of His good pleasure.

BECAUSE WE LIKE TO ATTEMPT to be our own little sovereigns -- We find it difficult -- not so much to understand God's sovereignty -- but we find it difficult to accept. The "clay"

(That's us!) likes to instruct and seeks to lord over Sovereign God, "The Potter!"

So, it's a glorious day of miracles when any of us cries out in confession to God: "O God, you are sovereign. You are free to be God. You do as you please, when you please, with whom you please!"

The bottom line is this: God's sovereignty is the truth that enables me to say **"THANK YOU!"** ... And give PRAISE to the One who allowed whatever it is that I have responded to with anxiety.

God's sovereignty comforts me with the knowledge that God could have prohibited or controlled all the situations and/or people who are connected to my stress level. Since He did not control or stop the 'evil thing' from happening; nor did He stop that fellow human from attacking me in some way -- **SINCE HE DID NOT:**

*"I can accept the fact that **infinite wisdom and unchanging love conspired with Almighty power to cause something and/or to allow something that's ultimately for my good and His glory; that He has caused/allowed something that at present I may well deem evil or unfair or even cruel -- But it is, in fact, all for a glorious testimony to both saints and sinners!**"*

Thank-You Therapy will probably never be thankful for a thalidomide body, but **Thank-You Therapy** can be thankful for a sovereign God who doesn't allow for such problems without a good reason.

Again, **Thank-You Therapy** is not designed to lessen the impact of life's problems; but it is spiritual truth determined to refocus our attention. **Thank-You Therapy** is not intended to change the circumstances. Its purpose is to change attitudes. **Thank-You**

Therapy gives thanks **IN** EVERYTHING-- not necessarily **FOR** EVERYTHING -- for the sovereign wisdom that has allowed the circumstance and the unexplained reasons behind it. **Thank-You Therapy** lifts the gaze of the human spirit to the superhuman God, refocuses our attention from circumstances to sovereignty, **and then proclaims:**

³³O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! ³⁴For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? ³⁵Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? ³⁶For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen. (Romans 11:33-36)

Great Grace in Christ Jesus to you all! / James / www.southsidegallatin.org

NEWS NOTES:

EVERY Saturday, * 8:00am — Men's Bible Study: — *THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS!* (Doors open by 7:30am... coffee, juice, donuts, and Hardee's Biscuits are available!)**

***** NEXT Ladies Bible Study— *Tuesday, JANUARY 12, 2021, 11:00am: Women of the Bible!***

NOVEMBER 29, SUNDAY SERVICES:

***** Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes.

***** WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!**

***** 5:00pm - 6:00pm -FIFTH SUNDAY Church-wide SINGING/ PRAISE to the LORD... AND a message from God's Word, Lukus Haskins, Preaching!**

TUESDAYS: WEEKLY Youth Group Meeting, ages 12 and up ... NOW, Tuesdays a 7:15pm... at Jaden and Rhi's home...

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ SOUTHSIDE:

6:30pm— Come in by the back 'double doors' under the Drive Thru awning

***** Adult Prayer Service***

***** Young FAMILIES Prayer Service***

HEALTH REMINDERS as to CHURCH SERVICES

1. IF YOU ARE SICK... [OR if you are presently in a state of high immune deficiency or if (at home or work) you are caring for one who is sick; or if you have • Fever; • Coughing; • Chills; • Headache; • Sore throat; etc.], please stay home!]

2. IF YOU ARE HEALTHY and well... you may or may not choose to wear a mask... or gloves... WE do not require; we WILL NOT provide such. WE CONTINUE to encourage FREEDOM... as to 'social distancing'— 6ft apart... give sensitivity and respect one to another.

ADDED NOTE: In addition to carefulness, and good hydration, good nutrition, and sleep— ALSO: so as to SEEK TO HAVE A STRONG IMMUNE SYSTEM... I PERSONALLY TAKE ELDERBERRY, VITAMIN C, ZINC, GINGER, VITIMIN D, Quercetin, and a good multi-vitamin that includes fiber.

3. LET each of us DO OUR PART IN personal hygiene. IF you use the restrooms— please wash your hands with SOAP; and use nearby SANITIZER.

IT IS A MATTER OF SAFETY for all, (ESPECIALLY for SENIOR ADULTS), CHILDREN ANY WHERE IN THE CHURCH BUILDING— No unsupervised Children!

FOR THOSE AT HOME: TO RECEIVE THE 10:45am LIVE STREAMING of the worship service of November 29... GO TO: www.southsidegallatin.org [You can also connect to our YouTube page for past messages & Bible Studies!]

LOVE OFFERINGS UNTO THE LORD BY MAIL or ONLINE GIVING:

SUCH funds, (if checks), make out to Southside Baptist) — MAIL TO: Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1594, Gallatin, TN 37066

OR, you may choose to GIVE, via ONLINE GIVING <https://southsidebaptist.breezechms.com/give/online>

SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER, 2020

DECEMBER 6, SUNDAY SERVICES:

***** Sunday School at 9:30am:** Nursery, Children's classes, Youth, and Adult classes.

***** WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:45am!**

Additional Sunday Events:

1. DECEMBER 6, Fellowship Meal, after morning worship service.

2. DECEMBER 13, 5:00pm - 6:30 pm- Training Faithful Men, 1689 Confession of faith.

3. DECEMBER 20, LORD'S SUPPER, at end of Morning Worship; and HOME GROUPS, in the evening.

4. DECEMBER 27, 5:00pm - 6:00pm- Church Wide DISCIPLESHIP... presently an important STUDY on PRAYER, using R.C. Sproul videos...