

Balance

By Rev. Eli O. Klingensmith

My friend, there are two extreme tests that disturb our balance in life. Each has its own set of problems. On one side is adversity. King Solomon realized this when he wrote: "If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small," (Proverbs 24:10 MLB).

The Good News Bible paraphrases that verse: "If you are weak in a crisis, you are weak indeed."

Adversity is a good test of our resiliency, our ability to cope, to recover from misfortune.

As I write this article, it is May 6th and COVID 19 has killed over 71,000 people with no end in sight. It has forced us to think, live and behave differently.

On the other side is prosperity. In all honesty, it's a tougher test than adversity. The Scottish essayist and historian, Thomas Carlyle, agreed when he wrote: "Adversity is hard on a man, but for one man who can stand prosperity, there are a hundred that will stand adversity."

Why is that so? When adversity strikes, life becomes rather simple. As we've experienced the last two months, our need has been to survive, to make it through this tough time. But when prosperity occurs, life gets complicated. Our needs become numerous and often extremely complex. For many prosperous people their integrity is often put to the test.

Now before we get too carried away, let's understand that being successful isn't necessarily wrong. Being promoted, being elevated to a place of prominence can come from God Himself.

Psalms 75:6-7 states, "For not from the east, nor from the west, nor from the desert comes exaltation; but God is the Judge; He puts down one, and exalts another." Asaph wrote those words, and he is right. It is the Lord's sovereign right to demote as well as to promote. And we seldom know why God chooses whom.

Any examples of prosperous people who kept their balance when they went from obscurity to prosperity in the scripture? Yes! "Joseph" was launched from a pit and a prison to the role of Egypt's prime minister (Genesis 41: 42-43). "Daniel" was lifted from a lowly position in a boot camp at Babylon to a national commander in charge of one-third of the kingdom, (Daniel 6: 1-2). "Amos" was promoted from a fig-picker in Tekoa to the prophet of God at Bethel, the royal residence of the King, (Amos 7: 14,15). "Job" was a rancher in Uz when God prospered him and granted him financial independence (Job 1: 1-5).

Not one of these men lost their integrity in the process. But the classic example is David, according to the last three verses of Psalm 78: "He chose David his servant and took him from the sheep pens; from tending the sheep he brought him to be the shepherd of his people Jacob, of Israel his inheritance. And David shepherd them with integrity of heart, with skillful hands he led them": 70-72.

Adversity or prosperity, both are tough tests on our balance. Without a sense of balance some Christians "burn out" from over activity while others "rust out" from lack of involvement. Still others "foul out" from wrong decisions and bad choices. In any case, you're out. Our Lord recognized and taught the importance of balance.

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CHURCH BUILDING & OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Michael Lucas ext. 312
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Tuesday & Friday - Jeffrey Blankenship

Wednesday/Thursday - Mike Karam



Consistory plans on having a Zoom Consistory meeting on May 26, 2020.

Rescheduling of the voting of the next term of Consistory members for 2022-2023 is under discussion.

Rick Fisher Consistory President



The Legend of the Sand dollar

There's a pretty little legend
That I would like to tell
Of the birth and death of Jesus
Found in this lowly shell
If you examine closely,
You'll see that you find here
Four nail holes and a fifth one
Made by a Roman's Spear.
On one side the Easter Lily,
Its center is the star
That appeared unto the shepherds
And led them from afar.
The Christmas poinsettia
Etched on the other side
Reminds us of His birthday
Our Happy Christmastide.
Now break the center open
And here you will release
The five white doves awaiting
To spread Good Will and Peace.
This simple little symbol,
Christ left for you and me
To help us spread his Gospel
Through all eternity.

Anonymous



We reach out in love to our Church family and friends during this pandemic. We hope this finds each and everyone of you safe and well.

Being a member of Zion for the last 11 years has been wonderful and I am excited to now work for Zion as the new Office Manager. I have lived in North Canton my entire life. My parents still live in the home I grew up in. They are both retired now. My dad retired from the Hoover Company and my mom retired from North Canton City Schools as an Educational Assistant. I have an older sister who is a Registered Nurse at Aultman in the ER. I graduated from Kent State University with a Bachelors in Business Administration. Jamie and I got married here at Zion almost 13 years ago. We have two amazing children, Hailey (10) and Jack (7). Plus, we have a furry member of our family named Beamer. Beamer is a 12 year old toy poodle. I love to read in my free time as well as walking/hiking. I am looking forward to this new opportunity to serve the church as the new Office Manager.



Katie McCleaster

Thank you to the church members who provided Easter dinner for me. It was a delicious meal and cheered me up very much.



Judy McCune

I want to thank each who made our Easter meal bringing it to our home. Everything was so good. In times like this with the world like it is we need one another,

Jackie and my son, Michael Bowe

To Sherry and her Easter "Committee",

A world of thanks; you do the nicest things! Everything was delicious!

Thank you so much, Pat Hoffman

Welcome New Little Ones!

Arlo Fulton Seeds was born on April 15, 2020 in New York City. He weighed 8.85 pounds. He is the son of Christopher & Maggie Seeds. Proud grandparents are Dale & Laurel Seeds.

Forrest James Merten was born on April 10, 2020. He weighed 5lbs 15oz and was 18 inches long. He is the son of Chase and Taylor Merten. Proud grandparents are Larry and Paula Merten.



Pipe Organ Hymns+ - June 4

All are invited to come for a wonderful program and a time of organ and piano music with Ralph E. Morrison, Jr. in the Sanctuary at 1215 pm. During this time, we will practice social distancing. Come to see some friends and for some musical inspiration!



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- 1st: Sheridyn Woofter
- 2nd: Isabella Ramey
- 3rd: Ron Boeshart
- 5th: Bonnie McDowell
- 6th: Karen Conde
- 7th: Martha Bishop, Sarah Howes
- 9th: Kimberley Melin
- 10th: Katie Sponseller
- 11th: Joyce Teeple
- 12th: Christy Ray
- 13th: Mike Bishop
- 14th: Lee Yoder
- 15th: Dylan Mulheim
- 19th: Cindy Calvin, Sharyn Green
- 20th: Melanie Murray
- 23rd: Rev. Eli Klingensmith
- 24th: Linda Karlo, Shane Kelly
- 26th: Mary Ann Fisher, Lucas Kintz, Jeff Rennicker
- 27th: Ruth Frederick
- 29th: Kurt Hawkins, Jim McDowell, Jr., Bonnie Stahl
- 30th: Marilyn Giey



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- Jim & Peggy McClusky June 7, 1959
- David & Karen Jones June 10, 1962
- Brad & Roxanne Teis June 10, 1989
- Randy & Charlotte Powell June 13, 1981
- Bill & Ann Warren June 14, 1975
- Alan & Sandy Dawson June 15, 1968
- Ned & Nancy Selinsky June 19, 1966
- Gary & Nancy Fogle June 21, 1974
- Jim & Bonnie McDowell June 21, 1986
- Michael & Jolynn Woofter June 21, 1992
- Tim & Carolyn Selinsky June 22, 1968
- Bruce & Cindy Calvin June 25, 1977
- Terry & Carolyn Chellinsky June 27, 1981

College Graduates

Yvonne Indorf had two grandsons graduate from college, Zachary Bartley and Andrew Godard.

Zachary Bartley graduated from Pace University in New York City with an Information Technology degree and has moved back to this area to work in that field specializing in cyber fraud.

Andrew Godard of Atlanta, Georgia graduated from Clemson University in South Carolina as one of the two outstanding students in his major which is Plants and Environmental Science. He is hoping to do research with County Extension Services when this crisis has passed.

Marcy Haynam, granddaughter of George & Shirley Daniluk, graduated with a Master of Science Degree in Kinesiology. Marcy is a fulltime research assistant at the Stefanie Spielman Comprehensive Breast Care Center.

Ella J. Kulma, graduated from Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. The proud parents are Glenn & Jan (Kirby) Kulma.

Jake Sebald, grandson of Carol Sebald, graduated from Cincinnati University. He received a Bachelor of Science and a minor in Business Analytics with honors. Jake will begin employment at the Corporate Office of Marathon Petroleum in Findlay, Ohio in June. His proud parents are Mike & Cindy Sebald.

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High School Graduates

Haylee Robinson, granddaughter of Janice Huffman and Paul Webber and daughter of Jennifer Robinson will graduate from Hoover High School. Haylee is taking the next year to work and save money for school.

Conner (CJ) Hawkins, grandson of Dorris Hawkins and son of Kurt and Sandy Hawkins will graduate from Hoover High School. Conner will attend Walsh University in the fall.

Olivia McAfee granddaughter of Ailene McAfee and daughter of Chris and Shelley McAfee will graduate from Green High School. Olivia will attend Ohio University in the fall and major in Nursing.