

A Christian must approach every problem with prayer. He may ask that the problem go away (1 Corinthians 12:7-9; Luke 22:42) and if not, for strength to bear it. He might request wisdom to know what he should do (James 1:5). There is yet another promise:

And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen (1 Peter 5:10-11).

News:

The area-wide singing in Bisbee is on Friday, August 30. Be talking about it and if there is interest, there may be motivation for some car-pooling. Neil Short's dad, Buryl Short, has been having chest pains connected with any kind of exertion on his part. He is scheduled for a cardiac catheterization exam on Wednesday at NorthWest hospital in Tucson. Diane Cocke's sister, Dorothy, has diabetes and has developed a bad infection in her foot. Along with other efforts, doctors are resorting to surgery to remove the infection. Dorothy had surgery this week. Surgeons removed two toes and part of the bottom of her foot. What remains of her foot is the ball and a few toes. Let us pray that she will need no further surgeries to treat this infection.

We may need an update this morning on Gerry Clark's nephew, Travis Parkinson. He is being treated for a very serious infection on his head. Please continue to pray for Tatyana's daughter Olga who is undergoing treatments for cancer.

Prayer List:

Healing: Jerry Robinson's mother Norma. Mike and Sandy Cavasos, Ben Atchley, Faye Atchley, Nicolas and Annie Self, Jonda Gardner, Dave Morse, Richard Tuey.

Travels: The Cunninghams.

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Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

25 August 2013

Sermon Topics

A.M.: Living to Please God

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

P.M.: Blessed Assurance

Isaiah 41

Wednesday: Worship is not Always "In Truth"

1 Kings 13

Pulpit Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-5974

Elders

Ben Atchley: 428-2246

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

Services

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.
Thursday Ladies Bible Class	10:00 A.M.

Is Satan Powerful?

Derek R. Brown. *Bible Study Magazine*. July/August 2013

If Paul and the other New Testament writers did not believe that Satan is omnipresent and the source of all temptation, then what *do* they say about Satan? The second reference to Satan in 1 Thessalonians provides a clue. Paul tells the Thessalonian church that he sent Timothy in his place "when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and your labor would be in vain" (1 Thess 3:5). Here Paul refers to Satan using the title "the tempter." Satan is frequently associated with the activity of temptation in Jewish and Christian traditions. Writings from the Old Testament Pseudepigrapha, the Dead Sea Scrolls and the New Testament all contain references to Satan's temptations of God's people.

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Paul experienced Satan's work, and he now feared that "the tempter" (Satan) would attack the Thessalonian church. What was this temptation? Paul's stay in the city was brief and ended abruptly, before the Thessalonians could mature in their faith. Thus, it seems Satan's temptation was for the Thessalonians to abandon their Christian faith so that they could escape the "afflictions" they faced because of their belief (1 Thess 1:6; 2:14; 3:3, 7). Paul was concerned for the Thessalonians' behavior (1 Thess 4:1-8), but it was their faith, not their morality, he feared Satan would tempt.

Other New Testament writers also believed Satan was a powerful being who sought to harm God's people. The Gospels, for example, frequently narrate Satan's efforts to challenge Jesus during His ministry (see Matt 4:1-11; Luke 22:3, 31; John 8:44). In Acts 5:3, Peter accuses Satan of filling the heart of Ananias. Paul's letters include several references to Satan's schemes against Christians (see 2 Cor 2:11; 12:7). Hebrews speaks of the devil possessing the power of death (Heb 2:14). The New Testament also depicts Satan as the cause of temptation (1 Cor 7:5; Jas 4:7; 1 Pet 5:8).

Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you (1 Peter 5:7, NRSV).

Neil Short

There are several Scriptures that speak of casting one's burdens on God (Psalm 55:22; Matthew 6:25-34; 1 Peter 5:7; etc.). I have to say, I am sometimes troubled over the way many people apply this principle. Some seem to conclude that Christians should have no burdens and should not worry about anything! I'm reminded of something I heard in a lecture by Freed-Hardeman University professor named Dowel Flatt. "Some people say a Christian should never worry about anything. People who say that have clearly never been parents of teenagers."

This week I read an article by an evangelical homeschooler. In the article she spoke of some unique troubles in her life and there came a point, she said, that she "repented" for "trying to handle" her problems.

What's wrong with trying to handle one's problems? In fact, Scripture also teaches that it is the duty of Christians to *try*! For example, the verses after 1 Peter 5:7 says,

Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering (1 Peter 5:8-9).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Labor Day	3	4 Singing Night	5 Rosh Hashanah Kyle Kramer's birthday	6	7 Eastern European Missions talks @ the building 10 A.M. - 12 P.M. Lunch @ noon
8 Grandparents Day	9	10 Jesse Short's birthday	11 Patriot Day	12	13	14 Avery Wilson's birthday Singing: West Valley c.o.C. 6:30-7:30 wwochrist.org
15 Potluck	16 Greg Briggs' birthday	17	18	19 Richard and Ethel Tuey's anniversary	20	21 Ladies Day @ Southside c.o.C in Tucson. 520-247-6638
22 Autumnal equinox	23	24	25	26 Verdell and Cassandra Kescoli's anniv.	27 Richard Tuey's birthday	28
29 \$1,000,000.00 Sunday for eem.org	30					

Discipline? Resist? These words describe somebody who is trying to handle problems. Whose fault is it if I submit to temptation? At the risk of being overly obvious, it is *my fault!* The comforting promise regarding trouble is that God makes sure it doesn't overwhelm us (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Scripture gives no promise that Christians will have no problems. "For all must carry their own loads" (Galatians 6:5). We are never told to give up trying to handle problems. What is promised is that we will be given what we need to endure endure them.

There comes a time in every Christian's life at which he kneels in prayer and says, "Lord God, this problem is far bigger than I! Help me to carry it." That's different from throwing the homework across the room and saying, "God, this is your problem. Handle it."