

Not Seeing, Yet Believing

By Vance Havner

We have murmured that we have prayed and did not receive. We have given generously and we are not in adversity. We were faithful to attend the worship services regularly but landed in a hospital anyway. We have craved joy and peace, but now we are despondent.

Across the street is an ungodly family that has suffered no loss, while our dearest was taken or has suffered greatly. We are tempted to say, "There doesn't seem to be any use in praying. It reads well in the devotional books, but I cannot make it work." We were in distress and the Lord abode where he was and when He did appear, we grumbled like Martha when she said, "If you had been here my brother would not have died" (John 11:21).

All such grumbling means that we have not learned the forgotten beatitude. Anyone can believe during fair weather. There is a deeper experience and a higher state which not many reach, a state in which, no matter what happens, we are never offended in the Lord, a state in which, whether it makes sense to us or not, we still believe the text in Romans 8:28.

Habakkuk started his book pouting (Habakkuk 1:1-4) and ended it praise (Habakkuk 3:17-19). And blessed is the man who can say: "Though I don't get what I want, though I may sow much and reap little, though others get the plums and I get the sack, I will rejoice in the Lord; I will joy in the God of my salvation."

When Thomas asked for visible evidence of the risen Lord, he asked for a smaller blessing than he already had — the privilege of believing without seeing, for "blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29).

Brethren, God wants us to trust Him, no matter what He does. There is a heavenly carelessness that leaves it all with Jesus and doesn't get upset when He does things contrary to what we expected.



STERLINGTON Church of Christ



P.O. Box 82
1095 Highway 2
Sterlington, Louisiana 71280
www.sterlingtoncoc.com

Sunday Morning Bible Classes - 9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening Classes - 6:00 PM.

Welcome Visitors

If you are seeking a church home, we hope that you will consider joining with us. We are a growing congregation, dedicated to worshiping in truth and spirit. Please fill out the Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate!

Those to Serve

Today

Announcements- Travis Rogers **Opening prayer**- Lyle Russell

Communion- Wayne Fowler **Closing Prayer**- Ed Haltom

Sermon- Don DeLukie

January 21st

Announcements- Lyle Russell **Opening prayer**- John Chisley

Communion- Wayne Fowler **Closing Prayer**- Damien Miller

Sermon- Don DeLukie

Announcements

—Question & Answer Series: Our next Question and Answer Series will be scheduled when enough questions are collected. Give your questions to Don.

—Children's Home Collection: Our congregation is collecting items for the Children's Home in Paragould, AR. Collection boxes are by the nursery. A list of needed items is in the foyer.



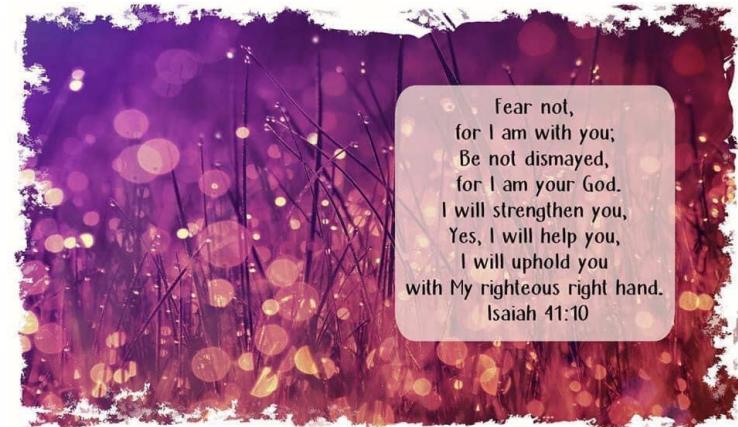
Please Pray For:

Joyce McDonald, Emmitt McDaniel, Misty Bible, Lorene Johnson, Louvenia Dickson, Everett Frost, Bobby Wanderish, Abram Simpson, Jimmy Binford, Brad Farrington, Virginia Cook, Larry McDonald, Lynn Urban, Ronnie & Dena White, Kathrine Simmons, Billy & Carol Granger, Randy Frost, Katy Harris, Dan Ross Jr.

Bereaved: Families of Margie Smith, Rose Lester, Gail Sewell, Debbie Love Brugman, Sonny Williams, Mike Wiggins.

Continue to Pray For:

Joanne Randolph, Dwain & Bettye Flowers, Linda Garris, Sharon White-Ross, James & Lorene Johnson, Bobby Barker, Ronnie Tatum, Cindy Smith, Renee Gee, Bobby Simmons, Tricia Muse, Terrance Dawson, Jamie Ross.



January Birthdays

- 1 - John Chisley
- 6 - Carolyn Jones
- 15 - Tommy Franklin
- 21 - Gary Harris
- 24 - Buck Raus
- 26 - Arthur Binford

January Anniversaries

- 6 - Debbie and Rick Cook
- 7 - Charles and Brenda Fricke

