

Father does, however, allow opportunities that work to increase our faith and dependence on Him. Struggles help us grow. But think about this for a second. If every stressful circumstance in life is either punishment or a test orchestrated by God, then it leaves no room for the possibility of self-infliction. While God may provide tests, there are plenty of times when our struggles are our own fault.

If I am struggling with money, for example, maybe the fault is my own. Sure, people sometimes lose jobs and investments don't always pay out as hoped. But if I've been a poor manager of money (failing to pay bills, living beyond my means, failing to prioritize or save, etc.), then my struggles are mine. I can't blame others or be angry with God when I've mismanaged the resources He entrusted to me (1 Cor. 4:2). Or consider our health. I can't blame others and be mad at the world for poor health, if I habitually treat my body poorly through unhealthy foods and inactivity (1 Cor. 6:19). Our choices have consequences, and life is all about navigating through the results of our decisions (good or bad).

Someone once said that when you point a finger at others there are three pointing back at you. Self-assessment is always necessary (2 Cor. 13:5). Typically, our poor reaction to tough times is based on our failure to admit our own guilt. It isn't the end of the world when we do. Being honest actually allows us to formulate a battle plan, starting with the humility that brings us back to the throne of God in time of need (Heb. 4:16). So the next time we are struggling with life, ask whether or not we share some blame.

4. Have I quit already? Sometimes it seems like life is caving in on us, but only because we've already thrown in the towel. We've stopped praying. We've stopped assembling with the saints. We've quit reading the Bible. We've abandoned kindness and adopted anger and bitterness. We aren't trying to be victorious anymore. Then we wonder, "how come I can't catch a break?"

We are stronger than we often believe. God made us that way, with inner power to resist weakness and failure (Heb. 12:4). We are, after all, made in His image (Gen. 1:26-27). Instead of assuming defeat, stand up. Times may be tough, but don't quit. Christians can overcome the world (1 John 5:4).

North Hamilton Church of Christ

8310 Dayton Pike/PO Box 517 Soddy Daisy, TN 37384
(423) 842-1044
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Schedule of Services:

Sunday: 9:30am (Bible classes), 10:30am & 6pm (Worship); Wednesday: 7pm (Bible classes)



February 16, 2020

Elders:

Willard Elsea
240-9539
Art Greer
902-6295
Joel Laney
322-7828

Deacons:

Joe Anderson
Rick Essex
Keith Herron
Brad Jones
Tommy Qualls
Chris Randolph
Curt Stewart
Toby Ward

Preacher:

David B. Smith
667-1987

“When you can't catch a break (Part 3)”

David B. Smith

3. Am I to blame for some of my struggle? So many people enter life's moments of crisis with the belief that God is either testing them or punishing them for something. To be clear, God can do both. In His great providence, God can certainly enact His justice for wrong actions. The Bible is full of stories that show God at work to censure bad behavior. He can also provide moments that test and strengthen our faith (*cf.* Gen. 22:1ff.). James wrote, "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience" (Jas. 1:2). He makes clear that this is not the same as the test against sin, which God does not orchestrate (Jas. 1:13-15). Our

The Past Week

Bible Class: 99 10:30 Worship: 157
PM Worship: 116 Wednesday: 97
Contribution: \$5,594

Sunday's Sermons

AM: Guest Speaker from South African Bible College
PM: "The King that Died in Dishonor"

Men to Serve

AM: Opening Prayer – Tom Greer Announcements – Joel Laney
PM: Opening Prayer – Chris Bell Closing Prayer – Phil Phillips
Wednesday: Opening – Chris Randolph Closing – Terry Pursley
All Week: Lock Building – Brad Jones Hall Monitor – Keith Herron

(Men, check duty roster on bulletin board and let George Farmer or Curt Stewart know if unable to serve)

Prayer List

James Anderson	Danny Curvin	Judy Lusk
Patricia Anthony	Tommie Grandfield	Tony Miller
Jim Bethune	Sarah Grasham	Lexi Owens
Nancy Birch	Bill Greer	Carlos Shannon
Mike Bouldin	Fred Hafley	Janice Smith
Jennifer Bradford	Kathy Hamilton	Bessie Smithson
Marjorie Cagle	Susie Hargis	Diane Stacy
Jeff Cobb	Grayson Ledbetter	John Webster
Isaac Cooper	Loretta Leffew	

Our Sick and Recovering

Jo Hargis was discharged from Soddy-Daisy Health Care on Thursday after completing physical therapy. She is now home, but continues to need care. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

This Week's Birthdays and Anniversaries

Next month's calendar is on the table in the foyer. Please check that your family's March birthdays and anniversaries are correct and included.

Birthdays

17 – Amy Qualls
18 – Glen Jones
19 – Ken Wilson

Anniversaries

None this week

Announcements

Many of our number are gone this morning on the **Ladies Retreat** and are returning this afternoon. We pray they have had a time of spiritual growth and fellowship and that they have safe travels home.

Additional copies of the **Ladies Duty Roster Questionnaire** are on the table in the foyer. If you have not already done so, ladies, please complete one and return it to an elder this week.

Plans are being made for a **VBS Mission Trip to Panama** this summer, where North Hamilton has supported and participated in mission work for several years. If you are interested, please let one of the elders know.

Due to security concerns, we want to ensure that the side doors of the building are locked at the beginning of Bible classes and remain so until the end of our worship service. If you arrive at a later time, please use the front doors. During inclement weather, someone will be posted at those entrances to allow covered entry.

Upcoming Events

February 23 – We will host the Soddy congregation for our bi-monthly singing and finger-food fellowship. Service will be at 6 PM. Make plans now to attend and stay afterward for food and fellowship!

March 21 – Ladies Day at East Ridge with Speaker Sheila Butt on the theme "This World is Not My Home". Breakfast and registration begin at 8:30 AM. Additional information on the bulletin board.

April 18 – Ladies Day at East Main in Murfreesboro with speaker, Jania Otey. Registration and Breakfast begin at 8:15 AM. Additional information on the bulletin board.