

the ground because we didn't get our way? Jesus told us to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matt. 6:33). That means everything, even the way I handle my trials in life, should be filtered through that goal. So often we've lost that focus, and that may be why it seems life is falling apart.

6. Do I appreciate what struggles can do for me? Struggles, by their very nature, are not fun (Heb. 12:6). However, if I exercise discipline and endure through them, I can become a better person in the end (Heb. 12:6; Jas. 1:2-5). Knowledge gains wisdom through experience. We grow more dependent on God. Our level of patience is increased. All these things come when I start looking at struggles the way God sees them.

7. Have I been communing with God about my problems? We've already touched on this problem, but it seems the tendency for some is to withdraw from God when times are tough. Whether they blame God for the problem or they just tend to internalize their problems without seeking outside help, the result is the same. They are cutting themselves off from the greatest source of strength and deliverance available.

Paul writes, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God" (2 Cor. 1:3-4). That is so powerful. In just a few words, Paul reminds us that (1) God is merciful, (2) that God is the singular source of all comfort, (3) that God does supply for our needs in every moment of turbulence, (4) and that God's help for us can be used in turn to help others through similar events. This is an incredibly encouraging passage, about God's desire to aid us in the storms of life. So, don't cut Him off.

Instead, we need to commune with God in the good times and in the bad. Regular communication is the sign of a healthy relationship, and it takes that to be able to jump over obstacles when they come. There's a reason we are told to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17). If I feel like my world is collapsing and that I can't catch a break, is it possible that some of that is caused by my lack of communication with God? We are always stronger, the closer we keep ourselves to our Father.

Remember, God is always stronger than the things we face in this life. If I feel like I can't catch a break, I need to start looking honestly and deeply at myself. The problem may just be me. God is always ready to prove His goodness to us. Let's trust Him and let His light drive away the darkness.

North Hamilton Church of Christ

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Schedule of Services:

Sunday: 9:30am (Bible Classes), 10:30am & 6pm (worship); Wednesday: 7pm (Bible classes)
Minister's Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 - Noon



February 23, 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 4/4)” David B. Smith

5. Where is my focus? My reaction to a trial tells me a lot about myself, if I'm observant. Not only can I discern whether I'm patient and longsuffering, but I can also discover something about my worldview. At the end of Ecclesiastes, Solomon drives home the point that life is about "fearing God" and "keeping His commands" (Ecc. 12:13-14). Immediately after, we are reminded about the judgment of God—when our lives are weighed against that standard. But how often is our reaction to a trial driven by our desire for comfort and materialism? How often is our reaction born out of the vainglory of life? How often do we really sound like little children, stomping our feet on

The Past Week	
Bible Class: 84	10:30 Worship: 157
PM Worship: 105	Wednesday: 109
Contribution: \$7,134	
Sunday's Sermons	
AM: "Eat Your Wheaties"	
PM: Bi-Monthly Singing with Soddy	
Men to Serve	
AM: Opening Prayer – Tom Haithcock	Announcements – Joel Laney PM:
Opening Prayer – Gene Grindstaff	Closing Prayer – Steve Everett
Wednesday: Opening – Carroll Oxford	Closing – Toby Ward
All Week: Lock Building – Joe Anderson	Hall Monitor – Terry Pursley
<i>(Men, check duty roster on bulletin board and let George Farmer or Curt Stewart know if unable to serve)</i>	

<u>Prayer List</u>		
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

Jeff Cobb, Doris Perry's son-in-law, was discharged from the hospital Wednesday to return home. He is now under hospice care with physicians anticipating a life span of approximately ninety days. Keep this family in your prayers at this difficult time.

John Blanks is scheduled for outpatient hernia repair surgery on Thursday. Pray for a successful surgery and a rapid recovery.

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

- 23 – Curt Horn
- 24 – Doris Perry, Phil Phillips
- 28 – Sissy Jones

Anniversaries

- 24 – Glen & Marcia Jones

Announcements

Bimonthly Singing: Tonight is the first bimonthly singing with the Soddy congregation for 2020, and it will be at North Hamilton. Plan to attend and remain for the finger food fellowship that follows the singing. Also, tonight's service will be at six o'clock.

Evening Service Times: Looking ahead to the remainder of 2020, there have been some suggestions to change our evening service time. The elders wish for input from the congregation as to the time they prefer. It can continue at 4:30, or perhaps five o'clock, or return to a six o'clock start time. As this needs to be decided quickly, please let one of the elders know your preference.

Ladies' Retreat: The Ladies' Retreat this past weekend was a wonderful success and we express our thanks to all of those who made it happen. We look forward to next year as this becomes an annual event.

Upcoming Events

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.