

ROUGH TIMES CAN BE GOOD TIMES!

Farmer Joe decided his injuries from the accident were serious enough to take the trucking company (responsible for the accident) to court. In court, the trucking company's fancy lawyer was questioning farmer Joe. "Didn't you say, at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine'?" questioned the lawyer.

Farmer Joe responded, "Well I'll tell you what happened. I had just loaded my favorite mule Bessie into the..."

"I didn't ask for any details," the lawyer interrupted, "just answer the question. Did you not say, at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine'!"

Farmer Joe said, "Well I had just got Bessie into the trailer and I was driving down the road..."

The lawyer interrupted again and said, "Judge, I am trying to establish the fact that, at the scene of the accident, this man told the Highway Patrolman on the scene that he was just fine. Now several weeks after the accident he is trying to sue my client. I believe he is a fraud. Please tell him to simply answer the question."

By this time the Judge was fairly interested in Farmer Joe's answer and said to the lawyer, "I'd like to hear what he has to say about his favorite mule Bessie."

Joe thanked the Judge and proceeded, "Well as I was saying, I had just loaded Bessie, my favorite mule, into the trailer and was driving her down the highway when this huge semi-truck and trailer ran the stop sign and smacked my truck right in the side. I was thrown into one ditch and Bessie was thrown into the other. I was hurting real bad and didn't want to move. However, I could hear ole Bessie moaning and groaning. I knew she was in terrible shape just by her groans. Shortly after the accident a Highway Patrolman came on the scene. He could hear Bessie moaning and groaning so he went over to her. After he looked at her he took out his gun and shot her between the eyes. Then the Patrolman came across the road with his gun in his hand and looked at me. He said, "Your mule was in such bad shape I had to shoot her. How are you feeling?"

It was then that I said, "I'm fine."

I have no doubt in my mind that Farmer Joe knew that by staying with the truth, the truth would set him free and what looked like an impossible win for him became just that a win!

Whatever happens, whatever goes wrong, whatever troubles comes into your life, when we lose our positive outlook and view our circumstances with a negative attitude, we then set ourselves up for sure defeat. But a person with a positive perspective cannot be defeated!

How do we get a positive perspective on life? We have to come to the Bible and look at the promises he gives to us that cover all situations, and if we look at them through the eyes of God and trust the Holy Spirit working in our lives to bring victory as He carries us through the difficult problems into the light of God's plans for our lives; we overcome!

You are going to be tested. You are going to have troubles, but keep the right perspective for Jesus says in John 16:33 and verse 34—*These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.* There you have it, the promises of our Lord.

I like this promise in God's Word that says in 1 John 5:4 *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.* Is that good news for the believer or what! You don't have to be beaten down by the blows. Instead you brace yourself for the blows, set your feet, turn your eyes toward the heavens from where your help comes and doing all you can do—then just stand. Help will come as God will honor your faith.

Then along comes James and he encourages us with this promise in God's Word—*My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith proudest patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting...* (James 1:2-6a). Yes, **rough times can be good times** and victory is assured if we doubt not!

You do not rejoice in the trials themselves, but in their possible results. Testing carries the idea of proving genuineness. Trials serve as a discipline to purge faith of dross, stripping away what is false and of no good. If you are handed everything on a silver plate throughout your childhood and never have to face any struggles in your life, you will grow up weak, selfish and unable to cope with life. Happiness will be fleeting; always disappearing into the shadows; slipping away before you even have the pleasure of enjoying it.

God always has wonderful and life changing lessons for His children in all that we go through if we are willing to examine the situations we go through. If we are willing to invite the Holy Spirit to speak to our heart and give clarity to our minds, we will often see that we can profit from these troubles; we can turn our hardships into positive life changing blessings.

Struggling with your faith? Take a read through Hebrews 11- the faith chapter and read about the man and women of the Bible. Find out how they handled their troubles as they released their faith and stood upon the Word of God; it is an eye-opener! It is a favorite chapter for many believers as we receive the truths from greats like Abel, Enoch, Noah, Sarah, Abraham, Moses, Rahab, Esther, the Israelites and others.

If there is one thing that I have learned down through the forty plus years of serving the Lord, it is this—trouble never leaves you where it finds you. You are changed into a better person or a bitter person. You are given the ability to see how your problems will affect you and then you are given the power to choose how you want to handle them. As for me, I like having a choice. No one else is help responsible for my choices; I am held accountable and believe you me, it keeps me in the Word seeking God's truth, in prayer seeking God's wisdom, clarity and understanding, and it keeps me in a positive frame of mind. I am an OVERCOMER in my Jesus!

Praying and moving in a positive attitude is like an anchor in the boat of life. Imagine that you are a little boat near a sandy beach. You throw out your anchor and pull on the rope until you feel the sandy shore slip underneath you. You get out onto solid ground. It is the anchor that puts solid ground under us and my anchor is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the anchor of my soul. He helps me turn the ROUGH TIMES INTO GOOD TIMES!