

WORDS TO	Box	Cypress	Myrrh
FIND:	Bramble	Ebony	Olive
Almug	Burningbush	Fig	Palm
Almond	Cassia	Fir	Pine
Apple	Cedar	Gopher	Shittim
Ash	Chestnut	Hemlock	
Bay	Cinnamon	Mulberry	

She Kept the Thrown Brick

Author Unknown

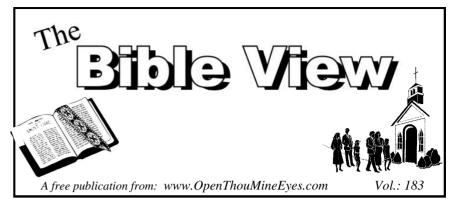
Samuel L. Brengle's little classic, <u>Helps to Holiness</u> was originally written as a series of articles and penned during his period of convalescence after an angry person threw a whole paving brick at the author's head. The book was a blessing to many.

The Brengles used to say:

"If there had been no little brick, there would have been no little book."

Mrs. Brengle kept the brick and painted text on it. It read, "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive." (Gen. 50:20)

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Count It All Joy

Barbara Brinkworth

As a new Christian, almost 30 years ago, a close friend taught me to read the Bible daily. Of course, there were many things I did not understand. As I read the Bible through each year, the stories in God's Word became more familiar. I looked forward to my time in the Scriptures.

Four or five years later, there was still one verse that made no sense to me. It was James 1:2, "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into diverse temptations." How could one thank God for problems? I had been through many testings and trials,

since I had trusted Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour. During these times, there had not been a lot of joy going on. I had had to move from West Virginia to New Jer-

sey to care for my ailing parents. My younger brother had Continued on Page 2

Thanking the Man Who Fired Him

Author Unknown

Wallace Johnson, builder of numerous Holiday Inn motels and convalescent hospitals said, "When I was forty years old, I worked in a sawmill.



" O n e morning the boss told me, 'Y o u'r e fired!'

"Depressed and discouraged, I felt like the

world had caved in on me. It was during the depression, and my wife and I greatly needed the small wages I had been earning. When I went home, I told my wife what had happened.

"She asked, 'What are you going to do now?

"I replied, 'I'm going to mortgage our little home, and go into the building business.' My first venture was the construction of two small buildings. Within five years, I was a multi-millionaire!

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Count It All Joy

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died at the age of 36, and ten days later, my mother died. Within two more years, my dad died — unsaved. That was very hard to accept. Also, my oldest daughter was involved in a very serious motorcycle accident. Whew! Was I joyful during all these events? I think not.

Since God's Word is true, what had I been missing about James 1:2? How could I accept and understand that verse? God had the answer, and he gave it to me as a present on my forty-second birthday. Here is how it happened:

I was at a Bible seminar with two friends, who were also sisters. The speaker at some point had discussed James 1:2. As always, I had listened, in vain, hoping to be able to apply that verse to my own life. During the next break, I was speaking to my friends about their mother, Dot. She had been through many trials recently, including the death of her husband and some serious physical problems of her own. She was discouraged, to say the least. All of a sudden I found myself saying, "Wouldn't vou think Dot would see God's hand working through her problems? Wouldn't you think she would know God cares, and count it all ...?" I stopped midsentence. That was my answer to the meaning of James 1:2. It was not that I should be joyful

"The brook would lose its song if we removed the rocks."

<u>for</u> the trials, but rather joyful about the God of the trials.

Through the testings and temptations God brings into our lives, He teaches us how to live and serve Him better. He also reveals more about Himself to us in each diverse situation. As we see Him work through our trials, we are more assured of His love and care. We learn more of His character. Our faith is strengthened, as we see God working on our behalf in ways only He could accomplish.

Now, James 1:2 is part of my own personal arsenal to keep discouragement at bay. During times of diverse temptations, I am better able to trust God and count it all joy. I just wait and see how He will use the trials in my life for my ultimate good and His eternal glory.

Thanking Man Who ...

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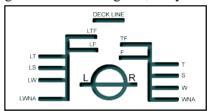
"Today, if I could locate the man who fired me, I would sincerely thank him for what he did. At the time it happened, I didn't understand why I was fired. Later, I saw that it was God's unerring and wondrous plan to get me into the way of His choosing!"

The Plimsoll Mark

Sunday School Times

It was due to the efforts of Samuel Plimsoll (1824-98), British reformer that the Merchant Shipping Act of 1876 was passed, requiring all ships to bear a mark known as the Plimsoll mark. The mark indicated the water line of a maximum load on the side of a ship. By this act, the Board of Trade of England was empowered to detain any vessel deemed unsafe, if the mark was under water; thus making the long and perilous ocean voyage of those days much safer. Because of his work. Plimsoll became known as the sailor's friend.

The Plimsoll mark, with its gradations and figures, may be



seen on the bow of ships near the water line as they lie at anchor in harbor. In God's sight, each of us has a similar mark, though we may not be able to see it. The burdens and responsibilities He gives us may seem unbearable, but He knows our limit. His everlasting arms are underneath, and by His grace, we can bear them without "sinking".

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way." — Psalm 37:23

One Cottage Burned

W. W. Weeks

Years ago, a fishing fleet went out from a small harbor on the east coast of Newfoundland. In the afternoon there came up a great storm. When night settled down, not a single vessel of the fleet had found its way into port. All night wives, mothers, children, and sweethearts paced up and down the beach, wringing their hands and calling on God to save their loved ones. To add to the horror of situation, one of the cottages caught fire. Since the men were all away, it was impossible to save the home.

When the morning broke, to the joy of all, the entire fleet found safe harbor in the bay. There was one face which was a picture of despair, the wife of the man whose home had been destroyed by fire. Meeting her husband as he landed, she cried, "Oh, husband, we are ruined! Our home and all it contained was destroyed by fire!"

The man exclaimed, "Thank God for the fire! It was the light of our burning cottage that guided the whole fleet into port!"

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." — I Corinthians 10:13