

THE BIBLE VIEW

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It Ain't Easy

Bill Brinkworth

Living the way God commands us to live is not easy. So many people are under the false impression that once they submit to the Lord's will that problems will never occur. They think they will be exempt from life's heartaches, hardships, hazards, and hiccups. That certainly is not true.

The godly may have God's protection and guidance, but we are in a sinful world, and we may face the consequences from our and other's sin. We experience it today, and David faced it as he wrote in Psalm 31.

The King dealt with:

- Traps sent for him to make him fail (Psalm 31:4). A foiled believer often makes the ungodly triumph as they see that Christians "are not so holy and perfect ..." Somehow a defeated Christ-follower eases their guilt in not living a God-pleasing life.
- Lies all around him (Psalm 31:6, 18).
- Troubles and plenty of them (Psalm 31:9). However, those troubles and trials are not always a "bad" thing. Much of the time, the undesirable occurrences can draw us closer to the Lord as we seek His help. They can also help us get stronger in our faith as we see that God will protect and help us during the tribulations.
- Grief. Because of sin, there will be death and many let-downs. Hearts will be broken, but we have a God that will fix and comfort broken, discouraged, and sad hearts (Psalm 31:10).
- Those that forgot the king and his needs (Psalm 31:12). We are not the first to have put a lot of time and trust into a person and later be cast aside. David experienced the hurt feelings of being abandoned more than once.

Although we do not have a get-out-of-pain-and-suffering card just because one is a child of God, we do have something that the godless do not have when they go through hardships. We have the Lord. He is our God (Psalm 31:14), and we will have watch-care, guidance, and protection.

We will experience what God allows in our life for our's or someone else's benefit. We may not always like the trials we face, but God has a purpose for us to learn and to get spiritually stronger through our tests and turbulences.

"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD." Psalm 31:24

"Courage: Being scared to death and saddling up anyway." — Wayne

What to Do If You Have Enemies

Bill Brinkworth

Here is some of what the Bible says about enemies, and how a Christian should behave toward them.

- If you do right and live right as a Christian, you will probably have enemies and those that disapprove of your devotion to the Lord. If you do not receive negativity for living a godly life, you may not be living the way God commands.
“Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.” Luke 6:26
- No matter what they do, we still need to love and be kind to them!
“But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,” Luke 6:27
“Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.” Romans 13:8
- Do not be happy when they suffer.
“Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth.” Proverbs 24:17
- Be kind to those that oppose you.
“If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee.” Proverbs 25:21-22
“Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I [Jesus] say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;” Matthew 5:43-44
“Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.” Romans 12:14
- God should handle the problem and not you!
“Plead my cause, O LORD, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me. Take hold of shield and buckler, and stand up for mine help. Draw out also the spear, and stop the way against them that persecute me: say unto my soul, I am thy salvation. Let them be confounded and put to shame that seek after my soul: let them be turned back and brought to confusion that devise my hurt.” Psalms 35:1-4

“Pay attention to your enemies, for they are the first to discover your mistakes.” — Antisthenes

Don't Run Away

Bill Brinkworth

Too many quit, or want to quit when the going gets rough. In most cases, one never really solves the problem; he just runs away from it. The dilemma may still be there or even follow him.

Quitters are everywhere:

- Husbands feel they cannot handle the burden of being a husband and father and run away. Although there is a distance between him and his family, he is still a father and husband. His running away has not changed that. The problems he fled from usually get far bigger than they originally were after he abandons his responsibilities.
- Wives run off, leaving families and husbands; however, she is still a wife and mother.
- Children sometimes do not like their parent's rules. They run away, but they still have the same parents. They just put space between themselves and the unsolved problem that will probably haunt them the rest of their lives unless they stay and work out the difficulty.
- Students quit school but usually spend their lives without training and education. The rest of their life is stalled because they never learned the lessons they would need to further their lives.
- Friends quit a long-term friendship because of an argument and add loneliness to their problems.
- Employees quit when they do not like what is happening in the workplace. Often it is a situation that they may face in other aspects of their life. Because they did not work out the situation, they may have similar confrontations in their future and will not be able to handle them either.

It usually is easy to walk away from an uncomfortable situation. It does not take character, intelligence, or common sense to run away when the way gets tough. Rarely is anything solved by quitting. There will always be problems in life. Unsolved problems have a way of following us wherever we go.

Many take their quitting life-style and apply it to their spiritual lives. Here are several reasons why one cannot quit on God:

You cannot quit being a Christian: Once a true Christian, always a Christian. You did not earn it. It was a gift of salvation given if you trusted Jesus' finished work on the cross as payment for all your sins. However, if you are saved you may have just quit being Christ-like.

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." John 10:28-29

You should not quit because the enemy has nothing to offer. There are only two sides – Satan's and God's. If one is truly saved by faith, he cannot get unsaved and be on the loser's side.

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." Ephesians 6:13

You should not quit because victory may be just around the corner. Troubles and tribulations are part of the school of life. You may be very close to passing the "test" and going onto life's next lesson. Do not quit now.

"And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." II Timothy 4:18

You should not quit when you make a mistake. Just get back in the saddle, and try again. The Lord may be able to help you if you will just stay and seek His assistance. He will never abandon you.

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:35-39

You cannot quit now; you may miss the harvest. Maybe one day your problem will be over, and you will reap a blessing from the tribulation. Maybe it will be tomorrow or the day after. Spiritual fruit does not always come the day it is planted.

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” I Cor. 15:58 Also: John 15:4.

Many times life is very difficult. If you are a Christian, you are on the winning side. Do not quit now. Victory may be possible. It is a blessing when it is achieved, and it may be if you will just pray and stay.

“He who knows no hardships will know no hardihood. He who faces no calamity will need no courage. Mysterious though it is, the characteristics in human nature which we love best grow in a soil with a strong mixture of trouble.” — Harry Fosdick