

# Good News

*From Getwell*

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*The Spiritual Sword Lectureship*

Radio Program

***The Truth in Love***

WHBQ-AM 560 / FM 98.5

Sundays, 8:00 a.m.

#### SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

##### SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.

Worship.....10:20 a.m.

Worship.....5:00 p.m.

##### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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## ON THE HOME FRONT

Greetings,

Getwell is blessed with good sound gospel preaching. Brother Michael Wyatt is doing a good work. Michael is the director of this year's 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Spiritual Sword Lectureship.

The brochures are ready. Thanks to Karen Wallace. There is a schedule of when each of the 35 speakers will be speaking, a listing of past lectureship books available and other information about the lectureship. Some of these will be mailed out soon. It's not too early to make your plans to attend the lectureship. The dates are October 15- 19.

Brother Phillips is now at Memphis Jewish Home, Room 118. Keep him and Patricia in your prayers.

God is good. May his blessings be on us all.

Dewey Murray

# Why Me?

Why? is the universal question (Judges 6:13). The word *why* is found 282 times in the Bible (kjv)—on average, once in every four chapters. (It is used 430 times in nkjv.)

- Jesus asked, “Why have You forsaken Me?” (Matthew 27:46).
- Job wondered why he was born (Job 3:11–12, 16).
- Gideon wondered why bad things happened (Judges 6:11–13).
- Asaph asked why the wicked prospered while the righteous suffered (Psalm 73:1–14).
- Paul was perplexed (2 Corinthians 4:8).

When the day comes that makes you ask, “Why?” look for a reason, but do not be surprised not to find one immediately.

The first thing victims of an accident or attack are taught to do is to examine the head, torso, and limbs for injury. Financial advisors do an analysis of one’s current situation before advising investment strategies. This is also true of a spiritual injury or a serious life challenge.

## THREE POSSIBLE SOURCES OF TROUBLE

These are:

- Living in a mortal body in a fallen world (Genesis 3:17–19; Matthew 4:23–24; 10:8)
- God’s discipline (Hebrews 12:7)
- Satan’s messenger (test) (2 Corinthians 12:7–9).

How can we know which we are facing? In this life, we see things imperfectly (1 Corinthians 13:12), especially when blinded by tears. Still, we can determine much by using God’s Word (2 Timothy 3:16–17) and the intelligence He gave us (Genesis 1:26–27; Psalm 8:5)

## THREE OBVIOUS QUESTIONS

### TO ASK

*Could this be God’s discipline for sin in my life? Is He trying to get me to focus on spiritual things? How can I know?*

- Examine yourself from God’s viewpoint
- (2 Corinthians 13:5). Examine outward actions (example), inward attitudes (heart), and the hidden heart (secret relationship with God) (Matthew 5:13–16; Romans 7:22; 1 Corinthians 4:16; 11:1; Romans 2:16). Is there a sin ensnaring you? (Hebrews 12:1–2).
- Measure your proximity to God (Luke 22:54; James 4:7–8; Revelation 3:15–17). Jesus calls Christians to higher states of holiness (Galatians 5:19–24; 2 Peter 1:5–8). There are degrees of holy living.
- Talk to God about it (Luke 18:1; James 1: 2–5).

*Could this just be ordinary trouble that everybody has? If you determine it is not discipline, then consider if it is just general suffering. Until we arrive at New Jerusalem, we will have sweat, frustration, tears, mourning, sickness, pain, and death (Revelation 21:1–4).*

Getting the flu, having a car accident, losing money in a retirement account, and having your dishwasher break are likely general physical things without spiritual meaning. During general suffering, do not become distracted or discouraged by the cares of life (Matthew 13:22; Luke 8:14; 21:34).

*Could this be God allowing Satan to test me?* The devil tested Job, Jesus, and Peter (Job 1:12; Luke 4:1-13; 22:31).

Gold must be tested in fire. Diamonds must be weighed and cut. Wheat must be threshed. Christians must be tested (1 Corinthians 3:12-15).

Either we have suffered, we are now suffering, or we will suffer—for “we must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22). Paul wrote, “to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake” (Philippians 1:29).

Be sure to pass the test. “Endure hardship as a good soldier” (2 Timothy 2:3). Use Job as an example (James 5:11). Do not allow suffering to dampen your zeal, kill your interest in the church, or lower your spiritual temperature.

If we pass the test, we come out on the other side with intact faith, stronger love, more joy, greater determination, and more wisdom than before. In other words, we grow spiritually through the pain.

Ultimately, it does not matter if we cannot determine the cause. Every case of suffering can be approached as if it is from God (Hebrews 12:7). If the suffering comes from God, then drawing near to Him fulfills His purpose. If it originated with Satan, then drawing near to God frustrates our enemy. If it is neither, it still blesses us.

### THREE POTENTIAL REACTIONS

We can think too little of it (Hebrews 12:5-9, 16). If God is trying to get our attention, but we do not recognize it, or if we ignore it, then we will not benefit from it. Our sin will remain, and we will be unprepared for judgment. We suffered for no good purpose.

We can think too much of it (Hebrews 12:5). Perplexity and disappointment have shaken the faith of God’s great servants. It can knock us off our feet, as it nearly did with Asaph (Psalm 73:1-14). We can focus on the suffering and miss things of greater importance. We can feel sorry for ourselves and ignore others who suffer more.

We can be trained by it (Hebrews 12:11-13). On New York’s Fifth Avenue, there are two statues that tell a story. One is of Atlas with the world on his shoulders. His face shows the strain of the weight. In a nearby church building, there is a statue of Jesus as a boy tossing a ball. Upon examination, that ball is a globe. The same weight that staggered Atlas was not too much for Jesus.

Our burdens can be too great for us, but when we cast them upon God, He can carry them for us (1 Peter 5:7)

*“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.” James 1:2-3*