

Can you imagine, just a normal ordinary life? Going along in a normal ordinary way and suddenly something happens and your world collapses. It all falls in, you don't know what to do. The trials, the tragedies, the traumas, or the temptations — it is overwhelming! Is there any help? Is there any way to get out of this?

Maybe you've heard the story of Chippie, the parakeet, from Max Lucado. Chippie, the parakeet, never saw it coming. One second he was peacefully perched in his cage, next he was sucked in, washed up and blown dry. The problem began when his owner decided to clean his cage with the vacuum cleaner. She removed the attachment from the end of the hose and stuck it in the cage — then the phone rang. All of sudden she heard PHWUP . . . Chippie got sucked in. She gasped, turned off the vacuum and opened up the bag. There was Chippie, still alive, but stunned. He was covered in dust, so she grabbed him, raced to the bathroom and held Chippie under running water. Realizing that he was shivering, she did what any compassionate owner would do, reached for her hair dryer and blasted him with hot air. Poor Chippie never knew what hit him! A few days after the trauma, the reporter that had ran the story of Chippie, called to see how he was recovering. The owner said, "Chippie doesn't sing much any more. He just sits and stares."

You may say, I know what Chippie feels like. Peacefully perched, and then I'm sucked in, washed up and blown dry. I don't know what to do with the trials and troubles that face me. It's always difficult to face difficult times. Maybe in this modern era it's even more challenging, because we have an expectation that life ought to be pain free; even trouble free. We have a fix for almost everything from headaches (take aspirin), a sprained ankle (take ibuprofen), stomach upset (take Tums), don't know that to do with time (binge watch Netflix). Then life caves in. We realize that there is not an easy out to this. What do we do?

What do we do when we have a thorn in the flesh that even the best tweezers cannot extract, just like Paul? In 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, we encounter Paul's thorn in his flesh, his troubles, and the lessons he learned through this. "Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness". . . "That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

In the devotional book called Jesus Calling (written as though from Jesus and you read as a listener to what Jesus might say to you), it says, "My peace is the treasure of treasures, the pearl of great price. It is an exquisitely, costly gift — both for the Giver and the receiver. I purchased this peace for you with My blood. You receive this gift by trusting Me in the midst of life's storm. If you have the worlds' peace — everything going your way — you don't seek My unfathomable peace. Thank Me when things do not go your way, because spiritual blessings come wrapped in trials. Adverse circumstances are normal in a fallen world. Expect them each day. Rejoice in the face of hardship, for I have overcome the world." *Jesus Calling - Enjoy Peace in His Presence, by Sarah Young*

A farmer in the 1800s had a horse that managed to escape the corral. The neighbor saw the horse escape and said, "Oh, that's bad." To which the farmer said, "How do you know?" The next day the horse returned, followed by 10 wild horses. The neighbor said, "Oh, that's good." The farmer said, "How do you know?" The following day the farmer's son was trying to break one of the wild horses and fell, breaking his leg. The neighbor said, "Oh, that's bad." The farmer said, "How do you know?" The following day, their country declared war and all the able-bodied young men were drafted — except for the son with the broken leg. The neighbor said, "Oh, that's good." The farmer said, "How do you know?" That story could go on and on and on. It is built around the premise that when we judge our experiences — only based on what we can feel, hear, taste and see, then we judge them on whether those experiences taste good, feel good, etc. But that's not the whole story. Instead of trying to figure out if it's good or bad or why; instead figure out what lesson can we learn from the trials that come.

When you come to that point, with all the trials, the caved-in world, and nothing you do is working — and you say "God, I can't do it." God says, "Alright, just step aside and I'll apply my strength." That is His strength being brought to bear. Caring fulling and completely to completion that which He has intended all along, that's GRACE. Not the cleansing Grace or the accepting Grace, it's the empowering Grace that strengthens us so that we live the life God would have us live in this world. So that His strength works best in our weakness.

*Abridged sermon by Randy Roberts, Senior Pastor, Loma Linda University Church, February 2, 2019, Grace for Your Trials*



## LET'S CHAT!

with Pastor D

SHARON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

May 25, 2019



**Memorial Day** is a holiday that many use to celebrate the time from work and is normally associated with BBQs and other gatherings. However, there is great significance with this holiday that should not be forgotten.

Memorial Day was first celebrated by “decorating” the graves of fallen soldiers with flowers, and flags. It was known as “Decoration Day” but over time, it became known as Memorial Day. Originally, the day only honored soldiers who died in the civil war. However, after WWI, the holiday began to include soldiers of the American armed forces who had fallen in any conflict.

I recently read a staggering statistic. “In the United States 9 percent of the homeless population are veterans. In Oregon alone, there are 1,467 total homeless veterans; with a staggering 47 percent of those veterans unsheltered.” This means that there are 75,000 or more homeless veterans on the streets each night.

These heroes need to be valued. Many have sacrificed their lives for the freedom we hold as valuable today. We can never imagine the mental pressure in having to engage in combat, or not knowing if it will be the last mission. In this special time let us support our troops and those that have served our country.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### MAY

### JUNE

- 26 **Brunch Cruise—Portland Spirit TBD**
- 27 **MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY PAA/PAES Closed**
- 27 **\*\*\*Sharon Church Office Closed\*\*\***
- 29 Mid-week Prayer Meeting 7p
- 1 Sabbath School/Divine Worship 9:45a
- 1 Hour of Power, immediately following service
- 1 Reflecting Inner Beauty RIB 3p
- 2 **Women's Tea TBD**
- 3 Bible Study 12p
- 4 Pray for Our Children 7p
- 5 Mid-week Prayer Meeting 7p
- 7 Communion P&P 7p
- 7 **First Friday—Adventist Med Cntr 7:15p**
- 8 Sabbath School 9:45a

- 8 Divine Worship—Communion 10:45a
- 8 Bible Study 2:15p
- 8 Reflecting Inner Beauty RIB 3p
- 9 Elders Meeting 10:30a
- 9 **PAA Graduation 2p**
- 10 Bible Study 12p
- 12 Mid-week Prayer Meeting 7p
- 13 PAES Last Day of School, Early Dismiss 12:30p
- 13 PAES 8th Grade Graduation 7p
- 15 Sabbath School 9:45a
- 15 Divine Worship—Father's Day 10:45a
- 15 Fellowship Lunch 1:30p
- 15 Reflecting Inner Beauty RIB 3p
- 16 **FATHER'S DAY HOLIDAY**

*Items that appear in red are at partner locations, additional information on Sharon church bulletin board.*