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AFFLICTIONS

There has been a false teaching in the body of Christ, that when you get saved that you will not have any more problems, and that your new life will be pain free! This is absolutely not true. We only need to look at the lives of the disciples and know that this is a wrong teaching. Psalms 34:19 says, ***“many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all”***. The word ***afflictions*** means: evil, adversity, calamity, distress, evil, harm, hurt, sorrow, trouble, wickedness. You notice in this verse that they come to the righteous. Those that have been made righteous through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Yes, there will be many afflictions that come our way, but when we trust God, He will deliver us out of those things. We have access to his promises, but there is a fight of faith to receive everything that God has provided.

The reason there are problems is sin— in a sin-sick world. When we come to know Christ, we have a new, born again spirit, but it has not been developed. It develops by faith. Faith comes as we hear God’s word, and his promises. This causes us to “believe” and then “receive”. This is why it is so important that we, as Christians, share our testimony with those that do not know God.

No one evolves into a Christian. Each of us has to be born spiritually into Christianity. Then we need to be taught. Just like it takes time for a newborn babe to learn how to eat, and speak, and walk, there will be many days that it will be hard. Have you ever watched a baby try to walk? They have to be encouraged to take the first step, but often they fall right away. A good parent picks them up and encourages them to try again, until they are able to stand on their own two feet and walk without assistance. Just like skinned knees and ouchies that come to that baby through the efforts of walking, there will be afflictions for the new believer and the mature believer in Christ. Someone once said that when there is a new level there is a new devil.

We need to know that in the Christian walk that not everything will be “easy”. A Christian life is not a “fast food” life. It takes time to grow and to know what is necessary to be all that God wants us to be. Be encouraged my friends that as you go along in your walk that even though things will happen to discourage you, this is “NORMAL”. Don’t give up! I truly believe that most people that have given up would be surprised if they could see into the future that they would know how close they were to victory before they gave up.

Encourage one another. Build each other up. Be there for each other, and you will see that the walk is easier when you help someone in their walk. No fear! God will help us through as we go! Be blessed to be a blessing!