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THE AFFLICTIONS OF THE RIGHTEOUS

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. The scriptures tell us in Psalm 34:19, ***“many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivers us out of them all”***.

Yes, there will be many trials and tribulations, but we must remember that God is with us. 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”. That 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 must be born spiritually into Christianity. Then we need to be taught.

Just like it takes time for a new-born babe to learn how to eat, speak, and walk, there will be many days that your Christian walk will be hard. Have you ever watched a baby try to walk? They must 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 in the learning stages, there will be afflictions and trials for the believer.

There will be times that we slip and fall just like that young child. These are tests. We pass the test when we get back up and try again. We need to teach others 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! Be willing to learn from those that have already gone through the testing and had victory. I honestly believe that most people that have given up would be surprised if they saw the future and how close they were to victory. 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 along in their walk.

No fear! God will help us through as we go as we trust him. He promised to never leave us nor forsake us. (Hebrews 13:5b)!