

Let the Lord be Your Guide!

By Muriel L. Robb

Don't focus on what is broken, sick or inadequate. Everyone goes through "stuff." You are not alone. But so often when things don't "go right" we mumble complaints to ourselves, we get angry at others and we have our pity party. These are normal reactions. We all have done it and there will be times when we will all do it again. But we need to keep our focus on The Lord.

He alone is the source of our strength and if we want strength to overcome the "stuff" we need to reach out to him.

There are "seasons" in our lives when things may not be working out the way we think they should. Those are the times when we need to draw close to the Lord, Those are the times when those songs of faith we heard or sang in church need to be rehearsed once again in our head and heart. We may not always remember the perfect Bible verse. But we can remember "What a Friend we Have in Jesus," or "It is Well With My Soul."

We need to give daily thanks to the Lord.

We need to take time to pause and refresh. James 1:3 tells us that the testing of our faith builds strength.

God gives us permission to claim joy during the seasons of hardship. We are told "Weeping may endure for the night but joy cometh in the morning." Psalms 30:5.

So often we are tempted to remain "Baby Christians" and fail to grasp the opportunity to grow and mature in Christ. After a while we need to move on and put the message we heard in sermons, prayers, testimony and songs to work. "Stuff" will happen but rather than complaining to God, we need to examine our lives. Are we faithful in prayer? Are we faithful in our living testimony? Are we faithful in our tithe? Are we faithful in our reading of the Scriptures? Being faithful in these things won't make the "stuff" go away, but it will make you strong. It will give you the ability to overcome!

Sometimes the "stuff" will happen and it gives us a reminder that if we want God to be faithful to us, we need to recommit ourselves to be faithful to Him. When we think we don't have time to read the Scriptures that is a message that we need to make time. If we think we can't live the testimony we know we

should, that is the Lord telling you that He will provide the strength. When we think we don't have enough to give to the work of the Lord, that is when the Lord is telling you all you have is from him. Too often we think we can cheat the Lord with our time, cheat the Lord with our lives and cheat the Lord with our tithe and then wonder why He is not blessing us.

Sometimes the "stuff" is our wake up call!

Don't allow yourself to be separated from the Lord. Satan will attempt to redirect your focus and break you. But you make the decision to allow this to happen.

Christianity is not for cowards. Especially in these evil and wicked times. We must be different than the world.

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." 1 John 2:15-16

Remember strength comes from struggle. A baby gains strength when it struggles to crawl, stand, walk and run. But the baby that gives up will never be strong and will never stand.

Paul tells us in Ephesians 6:14-17

Stand

therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

God wants us to be strong. We live in an evil time and we need to be strong both in faith and character. We need to not only look strong but we need to be strong.

I liken this to the shearing of sheep. I come from the west and am aware that sheep need shearing. Sheep don't shed, so the wool keeps growing and the sheep will eventually die.

Look at this poor fellow here. He has been neglected. The wool on him is so heavy he is about to fall over and won't be able to get up. It is hard for him to move or even eat and drink.



There are other medical issues that may happen with excess wool: overheating and infestation of maggots underneath the matted wool.

We read in Scripture about the rod and the staff which guide us and correct us.

Sometimes if we are not corrected we may wander far away from the safety of the shepherd but the good shepherd is always willing to bring us back into the flock.

The "stuff" keeps us humble. It helps to make us tough and disciplined. If you are going to be lead through a wilderness do you want your guide to be soft and one who has never had challenges or do you want your guide to be tough, who had

challenges, hardship and knows how to deal with them? If you are a father or mother you have to be prepared to guide your children when they have to deal with the "stuff."

Candy and desert is fine and we all enjoy it, but it can't be our main diet. Our lives need the "stuff" so we can be strong.

So often people want to come to Jesus when he is handing out the treats. But we have to be prepared to live with passion and conviction. So often people want to compromise. Christians are called to transform the world but too often it is the world that is transforming Christians. We are to live full throttle for the Lord. Live your life with purpose. If we compromise, we are betraying all our fathers who came before us and all of our children who will come after us.

Don't let social media, TV, and fear be your guide. God put a fire alarm in you to warn others. God may not have called you to warn the nation, but he has called you to warn those who are in your "circle."

There are people in the world and there are people in the church who need encouragement to move forward. The "stuff" we face is just "stuff" but Jesus is the way, the truth and the light. Jesus can give us the power and the courage to go over the "Stuff," around the "stuff," or through the "stuff."

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30