

Struggles Of The Christian

By Mike Riley

The following is a story of nature that demonstrates that struggles are a necessary part of growth and development for the Christian in this life. God places these struggles (or trials) before us to prepare us for that perfect home in heaven with Him.

The Man And The Cocoon

One day, a small opening appeared in a cocoon. A man sat and watched for the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared to have gotten as far as it could and could go no further. The man decided to help the butterfly, so he took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily, but it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings. The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened! In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. It was never able to fly.

What the man in his kindness and haste did not understand was that the restraining cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening were God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon. As Christians, struggles (or trials) are exactly what we need in our lives to grow and develop properly. If God allowed us to go through our Christian life without any obstacles, it would cripple us spiritually. We, like the butterfly, would not be as strong as we could have been. We could never fly!

Conclusion: Brethren – Let's thank God for our daily struggles (trials) and display the same attitude toward trials as the Apostle Paul. The great Apostle said in 1 Peter 4:12-13 – NKJV: "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy."



STERLINGTON
Church of Christ



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Sunday Morning Bible Classes - 9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening Classes - 6:00 PM.

12/7/25

Welcome Visitors

If you are seeking a church home, we hope that you will consider joining with us. We are a growing congregation, dedicated to worshiping in truth and spirit. Please fill out the Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate!

Those to Serve

Today

Announcements- Wayne Fowler **Opening prayer-** Ronnie Hayes
Communion- Jerry McDonald **Closing Prayer-** Arthur Binford
Sermon- Don DeLukie

Next Sunday

Announcements- Lyle Russell **Opening prayer-** Arthur Binford
Communion- Rick Cook **Closing Prayer-** Damien Miller
Sermon- Don DeLukie

Announcements

—**Christmas Program and Potluck:** Our yearly Children's Christmas Program is scheduled for Next Sunday, December 14th. There will also be a Potluck preceding the program. There will be no PM Services that evening.

—**Church-wide Text Message List:** If you would like to be added or removed from the Church Text Message List, Please see Kathy Manning in person or contact her at 318-805-1961.

—**Caroling:** Kari Johnstone is organizing a caroling activity for anyone interested. Please see Kari for more details.

—**There will be no Wednesday Evening Bible Class December 24th or December 31st.**

—**Children's Home Collection:** Our congregation is collecting items for the Children's Home in Paragould, AR. Collection boxes are by the nursery. A list of needed items is in the foyer.



Please Pray For:

Oddie Cameron, Glenda Wells, James Mardis, Mandy Purum, Jo Ellen Haltom, Emilia Gillikin, Sherrie Burgess, Ronnie Stutts, John Swayzer, Markeeta Evert, Katherine Simmons, Lavenia Freeman, Terry Smith Atwood, Shirley Taylor, Lester Pinkard, Rhonda Rogers, Gavin McDaniel.

Needing Long-Term Prayers:

Jo Darris Collins, Christy McDaniel, Joyce Moses, Pam Few, Debbie Walker, Carey Day, Leo & Shirley Goodwin, Tommy Franklin, Arthur Binford, Dan Ross Jr, Dena White, Larry & Joanne Randolph, Bettye Flowers, Dave & Linda Garris, Sharon White-Ross, Bobby Barker, Cindy Smith, Terrance Dawson, Jamie Ross.

Bereaved: Family of Doris Jean Dulaney, Barbara Burke, Carla Owen.



December birthdays

5 - Joanie Franklin
14 - Wayne Fowler
15 - Jonah Scharf
20 - Vee Boren
22 - Brad Farrington
23 - Randall Lambert
24 - Louvenia Dickson
26 - Matt Scharf
27 - Rick Cook
28 - Brian Johnstone

December anniversaries

5 - Dan & Ethel Ross
10 - Rick & Sandy Van Loon
18 - Gary & Sharon Harris
27 - Leo & Shirley Goodwin
28 - Tommy & Joanie Franklin

