

THE BULWARK

AMAZING PERSPECTIVE

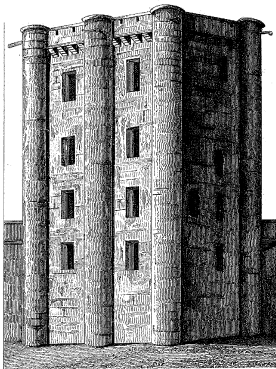
January 12, 2025

Winnetka Ave.
Church Of Christ
7054 Winnetka Ave.
Winnetka, CA 91306

(mail to P.O. BOX 2711,
Winnetka, CA 91386)

818.795.5566

- W. Bruce Evans,
Minister
- FREE Bible
Correspondence
Course
- In Home Bible Clas-
ses On Request
- Bible Based
Counseling
- Website:
winnetkachurchof
christ.com
- E-mail To:
wbe@wolfenet.com



*“Mark well her bulwarks,
consider her palaces, that
you may tell it to the
generation following”*
Psalms 48:13

Some years back, while doing some counseling at a hospital, I was asked to be present when a doctor was going to speak to his patient. Knowing such a request more often than not was a precursor that bad news was going to be given. Sadly, my assumption was right. The pal-
lor was heavy as I entered the hospital room as the patient was sitting kind of upright in bed; her adult children stood around the bed. No one spoke, they looked my way, then the physician entered the room seconds later. He introduced me and then as gently as possible broke the news. The cancer had returned and with a vengeance. Tears began streaming down the faces of the woman’s children. Then something quite remarkable took place, the patient who had received the dire news, began offering comfort to her children.



The woman was heard to quote a portion of Job 2:10, which states, *“Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?”* as she tried to assuage her visibly shaken children. How fitting that she would look back to Job, inasmuch as he had just suffered heartache upon heartache to such a degree that his wife implored him to, *“Curse God and die!”* (Job 2:9) Yet Job, ever mindful of the faithfulness of God, kept his perspective (see Job 1:20-22) Now, that is not to say that Job did not lament, for we know that he did, but his first response to all that befell him that day was to pull closer and tighter to God.

I was not naïve, I knew full and well why I was asked to be present, but in reality I was simply an appendage of little need. The patient, provided what was needed at that moment in time for herself and those whom she loved. Paul in the twelfth chapter of Romans, *“rejoicing in hope, preserving in tribulation, devoted to prayer.”* (v. 9) From a strictly human emotional stand point, it could be understood should she have had reacted with anger or open fear, but at that moment she chose to look elsewhere.

Let’s face it, life is going to hammer us from time to time. At some point we will be faced (or have already faced) with a like situation as has been discussed. When such does occur it is imperative for us to embrace a unique perspective, one that James points out in the fifth chapter of his epistle. *“As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord’s dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.”* (5:10-11) Even though Job (and others) may have later bemoaned their situation, nevertheless their focus remained on God, knowing something better waited (see 2Timothy 4:8; James 1:12)

One must always remember when life brings us to the lowest point, we can always lift up our eyes to God. (wbe)