DCTOBER 29, 2023

Think on These Things

"Tribulation worketh patience,' says the apostle. Naturally it is not so. Tribulation worketh impatience, and impatience misses the fruit of experience, and sours into hopelessness. Ask many who have buried a dear child, or have lost their wealth, or have suffered pain of body, and they will tell you that the natural result of affliction is to produce irritation against providence, rebellion against God, questioning, unbelief, petulance, and all sorts of evils. But what a wonderful alteration takes place when the heart is renewed by the Holy Spirit!" (Spurgeon)

Allowing the Holy Spirit to alter our way of thinking (renew the heart) is a distinct matter of the will. He will not do what He has not been invited or authorized by His host to do. This is why so many Christians tend to be indistinguishable from those who are not Christians. Even though He dwells in us, we don't (or won't) ask the Holy Spirit to take over and help us when we are in trouble. Instead, we tend to lean on our own understanding when it comes to dealing with crises and tribulations rather than "*Trust in the LORD with all (our) heart, and lean not on (our) own understanding*;" (Proverbs 3:5). When we go through trials and tribulations then, we can either: Let them work patience in our lives, knowing that God is with us and that He is using those trials to teach us something about Himself, His love, His will, and His care for us, or: We can mope around, sighing, grumbling, feeling sorry for ourselves, and looking to family, friends or other "experts" to help us through

the problems while ignoring the LORD and thus missing out on what He is trying to show us. When going through the tough times of life will you: "*Be still* and know that I am God..." (Psalm 46:10a) or will you follow the advice Job's wife tried to get him to follow when he was in such a terrible way: "*Do you still hold* fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!" (Job 2:9) Ask yourself: "Will I murmur and mumble, mourn, fret, and question God for what He is allowing into my life?" Or "Will I trust Him and by faith 'praise Him in this storm', believing that 'with God, all things are possible' (Matt 19:26b)?" The choice of how we handle things really is up to us.

Something to think about as we go about our week. Love, prayers and blessings, Trace

SUNSHINE PROJECT Check out the Sunshine Project table in the Foyer, or contact the Church Office for more information.

November: Sandra Simpson

CHURCHWIDE FELLOWSHIP & DEVOTION Next Sunday @ 9:30A In the Fellowship Hall

November Birthdays

11/01 **Greg Couch** Will Wyzykowski 11/12 Sandra Golden 11/15 10/16 Lynn Hammond

10/27 **Kerry Wegienka** 10/29 Joeddi Smith 10/29 **Chris Wyke**

this week at FRBC

SUNDAY (OCT 29)

Sunday School9:30a
Worship10:45a
Children's Church
GriefShare5:00p
H.O.P.E ESL (Volunteers should try to arrive
@ 4:30p for set-up & interviews)

WEDNESDAY (NOV 01)

Trace Lasher

Jerry Parkerson

Steve Buchanan

Hannah Lasher

Adult Bible Study.....6:30p i220 Youth Bible Study Journey Kids - Bible Alive!

Lead Pastor

Associate Pastor

Worship Pastor

Admin Assistant

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Dear church family,

Thank you all for the great surprise last week, and for our cards, gifts, and encouragement! I am so thankful for your love and support, and that I am able to know and serve with each one of you! It made my 55th birthday one I will never forget!

Much love, Ashlev

GRIEFSHARE: Surviving the Holidays THIS SATURDAY (NOV. 4)

10:00a - 12:00p IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL



Nov

12

Bill Forcier

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To receive FRBC phone/text alerts: text ALERT to 22300	

Office Hours: