

Bermudian Church of the Brethren

WEDNESDAY'S WORD – a midweek thought from Pastor Larry M. Dentler
to share a word of inspiration ... encouragement ... challenge ... a smile ... in the middle of your week
May 16 in the year of our Lord 2018 - #741

“Hanging On By A Thread”

It's a familiar saying. Have you ever been there? Maybe now? I'm aware of some within our Bermudian family that are there, and I suspect that within the larger *WEDNESDAY'S WORD* circle of readers ... there are many who can relate!

- A new medical diagnosis seems overwhelming.
- A medical problem for which there doesn't seem to be any answers.
- A workload that seems too much.
- A broken or strained relationship that gnaws at the heart.
- A loss that rests on one's heart like an anvil.
- An uncertainty that leaves one as though walking in a fog.

Yes...we've all been there and some of us are there...RIGHT NOW! *“Hanging on by a thread!”*
Well dear brother or sister, first let me reassure you that we are in good company. Listen to a few reflections from God's Word, the Bible.

“O Lord, the God who saves me, day and night I cry out before You. ... For my soul is full of trouble and my life draws near the grave. ... my eyes are dim with grief. ... You have taken my companions and loved ones from me; the darkness is my closest friend.”

Psalm 88:1,3,9,18 NIV

“I am worn out from groaning; all night long I flood my bed with weeping....”

Psalm 6:6 NIV

“My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me all day long, ‘Where is your God?’” Psalm 42:3 NIV

Can you relate?

Well dear ones, I know! And I don't have “magic” answers that will make you instantly feel better, but I do have blessed hope! Find strength to hang on in these promises. And if you are feeling right now that, *“This WEDNESDAY'S WORD is not for me, I'm on top of the world, blessed and feeling fine!”* Well, someone close to you is at this very moment *“hanging on by a thread,”* open your eyes and heart and bring Christ's love to them.

HERE'S SOMETHING TO HANG ON TO BETTER THAN A THREAD!

1. Jesus understands. He really does! That's not just a cliché! Part of the wonder of the Incarnation – God becoming flesh and dwelling with us as a human in the person of our Lord Jesus – is that Jesus would experience EVERYTHING that we frail humans face. Family stress? Being dog tired? Frustration with friends? Terrible physical pain? Death of a loved one? Rejection? False accusation? Betrayal? Feeling abandoned by God? Yep! He faced them all! So you can talk with Him about your struggle and know with certainty that He understands!

“For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize and understand our weaknesses and temptations, but One who has been tempted [knowing exactly how it feels to be human] in every respect as we are, yet without [committing any] sin.”

Hebrews 4:15 AMP

2. Jesus cares. He really does! That's not just a cliché! It's hard to imagine, and incredible to fathom, that the One who holds the whole universe together, cares about my problems! But He does. Perhaps that's why the Bible tells us ***“His love endures forever”*** 91 times! He loves you and cares about your pain. And He's waiting to receive you into His care. Take it to Him! He's waiting to receive it!

“Let Him have all your worries and cares, for He is always thinking about you and watching everything that concerns you.” 1 Peter 5:7 LB

3. You don't need to bear it alone! You really don't! That's not just a cliché! Since our Jesus lived it. Since He understands. Since He loves and cares so deeply for you. Part of His wonderful provision for you is people to be with you in the hard times. We call it the Church! No, the Church isn't perfect. But the Church is designed by God, and gifted by God, and called by God ... to be there! To help bear each others burdens. Don't isolate yourself from God's people. Don't think that your concern is too insignificant to bother anyone. Don't assume that the Church can read your mind and know what you need. Ask. Share. And let the Church help you. The next time ... down the road ... you can help bear another person's load! When you ask for, accept, and receive the care of your sisters & brothers in Christ, you are actually helping the Church to fulfill its high calling!

“By helping each other with your troubles, you truly obey the law of Christ.”

Galatians 6:2 NCV

No “magic” answers to make the pain & fear go away. But real truth from the God who loves you. Truth you can share with someone who is hurting. And if you are at a place where you are needing to “hang on” to something ... don't make it a “thread” ... hang on to your Lord!

Hanging! Pastor Larry <><