

Friday, July 17, 2020

Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies."

2 Corinthians 4: 7-10

Can you see the cross in this passage? Jesus was disrespected, but remained the King of the universe. He was beaten, but did not give up. He was killed, but rose from the dead. In life, we are sometimes afraid, but we are not debilitated. We have our struggles, but they don't have us! We have questions, but we don't question God's love.

Life has become uncertain, scary, and challenging these days. I shouldn't say "these days." This is the way life in this world has always been. It's just that uncertainty, fear, and challenges have now touched more of our lives in the same way they have been touching many other people's lives for a long time.

When I was a kid, I had a toy that was about my height – back then – that you could punch and it would fall over, but then immediately stand back up again. Do you remember that toy? It was a blow-up toy. I want to say that it had the face of a clown, but I'm not sure. The reason that it would stand right up again was because it was weighted down with sand at the bottom where "feet" would be if it had feet. It was a lot of fun to punch it and watch it just pop right back up again.

This is what I think of when I read the passage above which says, "we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair." As believers in Jesus, we may be hit with some difficulties in life which may temporarily knock us down, but because of Jesus we are able to stand right back up again. We can regain our composure and make it through the day in the same way we did yesterday.

We can do this because of the death and resurrection of Jesus. He was crucified, but He rose again. We will die, but we will rise again. In the meantime, we face challenges in life; but we make it through them because of the One who grounds us with His power and His sustaining grace. Whatever your challenge or your pain in life might be right now, it will not have the last word. Jesus will give you the strength so that even when you are struck down, you will not be destroyed.

God's Peace!
Pastor Jim