

How to Handle Life's Rough Patches

Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.

This applies to a house, a life, a marriage or any business venture. It applies to each of us daily.

We have a choice to either team up with God and partner with the Holy Spirit which knows all things and has all wisdom or we can take the go-it-alone approach which believes in "self" and I don't need any help. I can do this by myself. But can you?

Teaming up with God introduces Spiritual laws that we cannot physically see. Just as we cannot see the law of gravity at work, it is still real and is a very powerful force. Because you cannot see spiritual laws does not make them any less real.

God is real. God's spiritual laws and forces are real.

Jesus said, "When I go to the Father I will ask him and he will send you another Helper." The Helper he sent is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit lives in our spirit.

Have you ever thought about why the movement of Christianity grew so wide and so strong? It is because of our Helper, the Holy Spirit. God endowed the early Christian with the Holy Spirit and that same Holy Spirit lives in all Christians today.

Practicing evil or opposing God's commandments prevents access to the power of the Holy Spirit. Disobedience is not acceptable to God and God will not intervene and help us when we live in disobedience to his commandments. He will let Satan have his way and we know that Satan's purpose is to steal, kill and to destroy us.

"My people perish because of lack of knowledge." Until we learn the will of God and accept and follow God spiritual laws, life will always be an uphill struggle.

This was proven by the Israelites over and over and over. Every time they rely on "self," put other things before God, they fell into bondage, captivity and suffered.

But each time they repented and cried out to God for His help, He always rescued them. God is always faithful.

Satan has a well-designed trap. Whenever we turn to God and our lives begin to go better and our lives improve, Satan tells us that these events would have happened anyway. You made this happen. God had nothing to do with the improvements in your life. You should take credit for the improvement in your family relations, that new job, that big sale, that deal that came together or the prosperity of your family. "All good and perfect things come from the Lord."

Yes, you can build a house. You can labor and get it done but it will all be in vain.

Another lie Satan petals is that when "rough patches" come along, he says "see there, this business with God is not working. He doesn't care about you, He doesn't want to help you. You don't need God. Look at the world. Aren't they happy and prosperous. Don't you want some of the thrills of this world. The world will love you and you will be accepted. Throw in the towel with God and follow the ways of the world."

When all the time "rough patches" is God lifting you up and giving you more wisdom and more knowledge of Him. He wants each of us to grow in faith. All smooth sailing does not develop faith as well as "rough patches" do. They should be call "growth patches." They make us better and stronger and allow our faith to grow.

"Except the Lord build the house (life), they labor in vain that build it" (Psalm 127:1). At the end of the day or at the end of your life, will it all have been in vain?

Prevent wasted labor and team up with God and let the Holy Spirit reside in your heart. It is the only true path to prosperity and good success.