

Count it all Joy

when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

JAMES 1:2-3

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Suffering That Strengthens Faith

By: John Piper

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. (James 1:2-3)

Strange as it may seem, one of the primary purposes of being shaken by suffering is to make our faith more unshakable.

Faith is like muscle tissue: if you stress it to the limit, it gets stronger, not weaker. That's what James means here. When your faith is threatened and tested and stretched to the breaking point, the result is greater capacity to endure. He calls it steadfastness.

God loves faith so much that he will test it to the breaking point so as to keep it pure and strong. For example, he did this to Paul according to 2 Corinthians 1:8-9, We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises

Upcoming Events

September 14th 11 AM

Seniors Luncheon

September 14th-September 15th

Experience Conference

September 16th

Connections Night

September 21st-September 22nd

Girls Ministries Sleepover

October 31st

Halloween Outreach

Experience Conference



Friday, September 14th-
September 15th

the dead.

The words "but that was to" show that there was a purpose in this extreme suffering: it was in order that - for the purpose that - Paul would not rely on himself and his resources, but on God - specifically the promised grace of God in raising the dead.

God so values our wholehearted faith that he will, graciously, if necessary, take away everything else in the world that we might be tempted to rely on - even life itself. His aim is that we grow deeper and stronger in our confidence that he himself will be all we need.

He wants us to be able to say with the psalmist, "Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever" (Psalm 73:25-26).

Harvest Giving App

For IOS and Android Phones

We are happy to announce that we have a quick and secure tool that is available to us now for Giving. All you need to do is go to your App store on your phone and type in Harvest Assembly of God Lakeland, and download it for free right to your smart phone.

Volunteer Opportunities



- Ushers

We have an opportunity for men to help with Ushering on Wednesday's and Sunday's. If you are interested in this ministry opportunity please contact Kurt Templin at Ktxdbcs@aol.com.

If you signed up for the Experience Conference a ticket has been purchased for you. Please make sure that you are there. You can check in under your name. Registration opens at 7:30am, and service begins at 8:30am. If you are unable to attend please let Caryn know before the 14th as there maybe someone that can go in your place.

Seniors Luncheon



Friday, September 14th 11am

All of our Seniors are invited to this months Luncheon. We ask that you please bring a covered dish to share and bring a friend to enjoy the fellowship. For more information please contact Fred or Nora Connell at connellfred@yahoo.com.

Seniors Luncheon



Sunday, September 16th

In lieu of our evening service we will be having our Connection Group Night. We encourage everyone to be a

- Harvest Festival, October 31st

We are in need of volunteers and games for our upcoming Harvest Festival. If you are interested in providing a game and running it, we need you! If you do not have a game, but would still love to help volunteer, we need you! If you are interested in any of these things please contact Krystal Elliott at Krystal@harvestassembly.org.

Service Times

Saturday

7pm Adult Worship

7 pm Embrace Children's Church

Sunday

9 am Early Morning Worship

9 am Christian Education

11 am Mid Morning Worship

11 am Harvest Kids Church

11 am Special Needs Church

6 pm Evening Worship

6 pm Generation Youth

Wednesday

7 pm Adult Worship

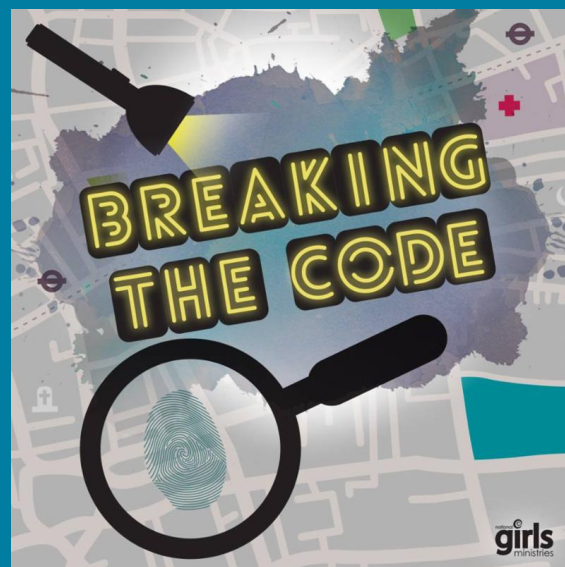
7 pm Girls Ministries and Royal Rangers

We look forward to seeing you!

Harvest Assembly Of God

part of a Connection Group. If you are new to Harvest we invite you to attend Pastor and Sister Joy's group at their home. The directions to their house are located at the Information Desk. If you are interested in being a part of a Connection Group please take a look at the Connection Leader book at the Information Desk or contact Marty or Janet Benton at martybenton2@icloud.com.

Girls Ministries Sleepover



**Friday, September 21st at
6pm-Saturday, September
22nd 8:30am**

We invite all of our Kindergarten through 12th grade girls to our annual sleepover. The cost is \$10 per girl which includes dinner and breakfast. You will drop your daughter off at 6pm on Friday and pick her up at 8:30 Saturday morning. If you have any questions please see your daughter's Sponsor or contact Krystal Elliott at Krystal@harvestassembly.org.

Quick Links

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