

Do You Focus on the Petals or the Pollen?
John Jones

Spring has sprung! I was thinking this morning about how each of the wonderful aspects about Spring brings with it some challenges. With all the beautiful flowers and trees blooming comes a layer of pollen on our vehicles and a need for an allergy prescription. The extra sunlight is wonderful, but I am starting to notice more a few more bug bites than I did last month! The warmer weather is wonderful, certainly, but with it come regular spring storms that seem to have us (here in Tennessee) heading for the storm shelter once every couple of weeks.

We could certainly choose to focus on those negative aspects, but consider this: in the middle of the cold wet winter, I never once thought about the incoming pollen, bugs, and storms of the Spring. I imagine most people don't! What I was longing for was the sunshine, the warmth, and the signs of new life that springtime brings. Who cares about the bugs and pollen, when we have the sunshine and the flowers!

Isn't that how life in Christ is? We are so incredibly blessed to be a part of "the church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven" (Hebrews 12:23)! But...maybe after a few years (or decades) among His people, we start to focus more on the minor difficulties of life in the church. Maybe, instead of seeing our brothers and sisters in Christ, we focus more on their peculiarities and personality differences that sometimes strain our relationships. Maybe, instead of seeing the blessed opportunities we have to serve others, we start seeing service as a drudgery.

We could certainly choose to focus on those negative aspects, but consider this: when we were separated from Christ (Ephesians 2:12), living in the "domain of darkness" (Colossians 1:13), and "dead in our trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1) would we have ever once been worried about those minor inconveniences of personality differences with other believers or the strain on our time that Christian service may bring. We had no hope and "were without God" (Eph. 2:12). We were living in "friendship with the world and in "enmity towards God" (James 4:4)! We needed the sunshine of a Savior, the warmth of a Christian family, and the new life that being a Christian brings! We were longing for the Son, and when He "rose in our hearts" (2 Peter 1:19), the cold winter of sin was melted away. Do you remember that time for you? Maybe we ought to more frequently consider the time in our life (no matter how long ago) when our Lord "called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

As we age and take steps closer to the end of physical life, this comparison is still true. We are longing for new life in our heavenly home. Paul said it best: "For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling...For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened...so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life." (2 Corinthians 5:2-4). But, the aches and pains and heartaches of older age, in comparison with our longing for our heavenly home is summarised in Romans 8:18 - "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

This week, let's all enjoy life in the Sonshine, focusing on all that He has done for us and the blessings of being in Christ!

On Our Prayer List... Hattie Tate Betty Rumsey Martha Durham-back home recovering Betty Suddeath
Kathy Martin Jim Tyler AI & Vicki Peek W. R. Long Marvin England
SURGERIES: Danny Dotson-surg rescheduled Kim Marlор-home recovering fr neck surg Cassie Fleming-rehab knee

<p>*Bob Thomason-recuperating at home from a fall. *Terry England-(Marvin's nephew) stroke-on life support. *Gary Street-(Kenny Fleming's cousin) serious heart issues in St. Thomas. *Mike Gunn-home recovering from neck surg. *Steve Peyton-(Peyton family requesting prayers)been diagnosed with Cirrhosis of the liver-running tests to see if a good candidate for a liver transplant.In Washington State *Carolyn Wilson-(Madison's grandmother) requesting prayers. *Odell Nichols (Ruby Dell's brother-in-law) in hospice care *Claude Hurt *Mike Mathis-(Keith & Linda Rodgers son) home doing better *Josh Barnett-(Charlotte Heights CoC Minister)benign brain tumor@treatments *Mark Long-(Jane Riding's nephew) now home-@ follow-up Doctor appts. *Dick Acuff-(Joan Long Acuff's husb/Dwight&Connie's cousin) crushed vertebrae *Thelma Davidson-(Gwen Bullington's sister) having problems from lupus *Chase Lewis-(Vicki Peek's family) having problems from lupus *Suzanne Boyd-(John & Erin's friends) baby -now home @ feeding tube. *Ralph Simpson- back in the hosp *Doug Simpson-heart -(Ruby England's brothers) *Whitney(Bullion)Sager -home recovering *Stephanie Greene-(Mike's sister)needs prayers *Charles Miles-recovering fr a fall + heart issues *Marcia Simpson-(Mike Bum's aunt) now home.*John Henry & Carlene Davis *Alyssa Gold-(Robert Proctor's niece) in need of prayers *Margie Gunn *Faye Marshall-Traci Adams mom / Victor Mandeville(BC student) needs prayers</p>	<p>THOSE DEALING/BEING TREATED FOR CANCER *KENNY FLEMING-cancer meds *JIMMY PHY-CA treatments *HUDSON JONES-(2yr old son of Dan & Catherine, Walnut St COC- has Leukemia) *KAY LEE-breast & colon cancer *DAVID NOWLIN-CA treatments-WCOC Elder *DONNA BURNS-WAYNE&ANN BERRYMAN'S NIECE)-CA *WANDA DOBBINS-(kin to Tyler's)terminal CA *JACKIE BORDERS- Lauren Stuart's mom *ROBERT GARDNER(Friend of Bill Williams) CA *RANAE DUNCAN-(Bo&Amy's neighbor)CA treatments *CASEY VAILES-(Ranae Duncan's son)also has cancer *JOHN PIRTLE -frd of Roy Deloach) Lung CA-age 53 *LARRY HAYES-(fr Waverly COC) restarted chemo *MAGGIE WRIGHT-(friend of N. Buttrey) chemo *BARBARA BUCCIARELLI-CA-from Tennessee Ridge *ALAN JONES-Stage 4 Esophageal CA-taking treatments</p>
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ASSISTED LIVING/ NURSING HOME: **Humphreys County NH** 104 Fort Hill Rd., Waverly, TN 37185**June Dreaden-** Rm 714
AHC Decatur County-726 Kentucky Ave, Parsons, TN 38363-**Wyle Marshall** (Rm 726)-Traci Adams dad
NHC-812 N.Charlotte, Dickson, TN 37055- **JoAnn Haley Doris Stokes-R127**

Address needs to have everything listed for Eric to receive: Dickson County Jail/James Eric Warden-ID102618/ PQ.Box 76550/Hghland Heights, KY 41076

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

<p>Men's Business Meeting, Sunday, April 6th @ 5:00 PM</p>	<p>UPCOMING EVENTS!!! *April 26th - Our "Ladies Day" Ashley Deffenbaugh will be our speaker with the topic of "Unshaken". Anyone interested in ordering a t-shirt for Ladies Day, the shirt & sign-up list is posted in the foyer, last day to sign-up will be this Wednesday night, April 2nd. Also food sign-up sheet will be posted on bulletin board soon. Questions see Terri.</p>	<p>Our sympathy & prayers to Marvin England & family on the loss of his son, Ronnie England, who passed away on Monday, March 31st. No service at this time. Also to the families of Joyce Meredith, her service was held on Friday & Randall Holland, whose service was held on April 1st.</p>
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INFO.C.U.S.

Faith, Obedience, Character, Unity, Salvation

Spring Break has come to an end and all the kiddos headed back to school this morning. There wasn't much relaxation this spring break. It began for us with our youth retreat, and we followed that up with a baseball trip to Knoxville, playing 4 games in 4 days. I guess that's expected when you have kids that are involved in lots of different things. Last night was our first 5th Sunday of the year. I appreciate all the guys who lead us in worship. They all did a great job! Thank you to everyone that was there to support and encourage them. Our next youth activity is Makin Music next Saturday afternoon. We plan to meet at the church building at 11:30. We will also eat on our way back from the event.

In Christian Love, Keith

