

however, speaks of Johnson's "zest for living." It characterizes him as a "Christian moralist" with a strong conviction of the reality of sin and of the redemption provided through faith in Jesus Christ. It also says that "his faith prevailed," for when he knew he was dying "he refused to take opiates because he had prayed that he might render his soul to God unclouded." The article concludes, "Few men have left finer examples of the art of living than Samuel Johnson."

I have known many believers with a disposition like that. Most of them went through repeated cycles of joy and gloom. And when they were down, merely quoting Bible verses helped little because they were already aware of them. However using the Scripture to help them see God in the picture made all the difference. During dark days they kept living for God and praying, and their faith prevailed. The "peace of God" filled their hearts (Philippians 4:7). That's good news for all of us, especially for those who go through times of doubt and despair. —HVL

*Whenever darkness grips your soul
And you are tempted to despair,
Remember Christ's unfailing love,
And trust His faithful, tender care. —Sper*

When life is filled with shadows, face the sunshine of God's love.



Pastor: Wayne Robilliard Ph: 4758 8778.

Please feel free to contact the Pastor for any needs you may have, queries, or questions about our church family.

www.mountainsbaptist.org.au

4wayner@tpg.com.au

Central Mountains Baptist Church

19 APRIL, 2009

Information for Visitors.

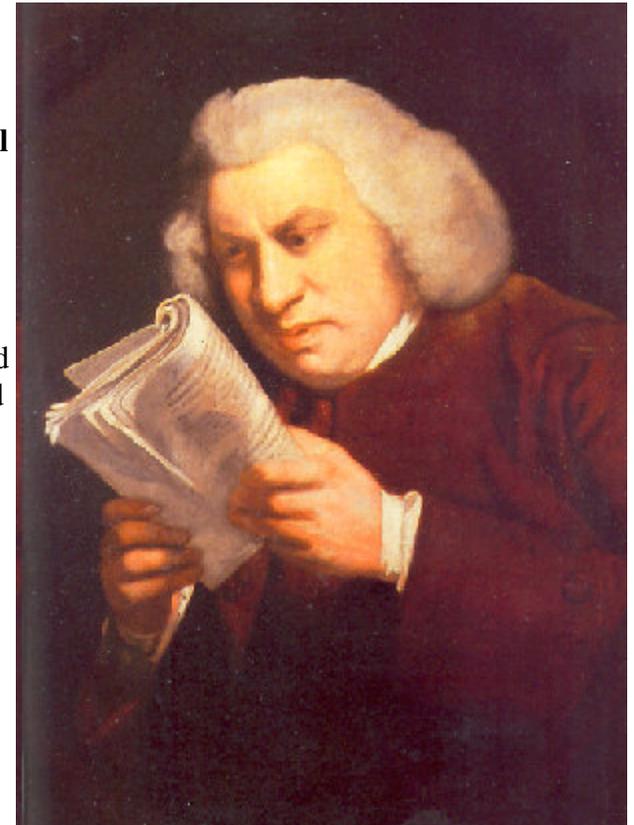
- * We're glad you're here. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the service. You're very welcome to join us for a cuppa after church.
- * a Cubbies programme is normally provided, during the sermon for the **toddler to Kindy age bracket.**

Down But Not Out

The peace of God . . . will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. —Philippians 4:7

The 18th-century author Samuel Johnson was noted for his wit, sensitivity, and encyclopedic knowledge. He found solitude depressing, so he often took in the poor and homeless so that he could be surrounded by people. He also confessed that he had a deep fear of dying.

An *Encyclopedia Britannica* article,





Soaring: Dropping the Heavy Baggage— Despair

Psalms 42 deals with 2 issues in regard to despair:

1. The _____ factors to despair,

◆ L_____, verses 3, 1-2, 4, 9

(1 Thessalonians 4:13-14) "But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. {14} For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus."

(1 Thessalonians 4:17-18) "Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. {18} Therefore comfort one another with these words."

◆ O_____, verse 7

(1 Kings 18:19) "'Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table.'"

(1 Kings 18:22-24) "Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. {23} "Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it. {24} "Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God." So all the people answered and said, "It is well spoken.'"

(1 Kings 18:29) "And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention."

(1 Kings 18:36-40) "And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. {37} "Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again." {38} Then the fire of the LORD

fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. {39} Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!" {40} And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there."

(1 Kings 18:46) "Then the hand of the LORD came upon Elijah; and he girded up his loins and



ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel."

(1 Kings 19:1-3) "And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. {2} Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time." {3} And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, .."

(1 Kings 19:4) "But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!'"

◆ P_____ factors

◆ G_____

(Psalms 51:8) "Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may rejoice."

(Psalms 51:12) "Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit."

(Psalms 51:14) "Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation, And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness."

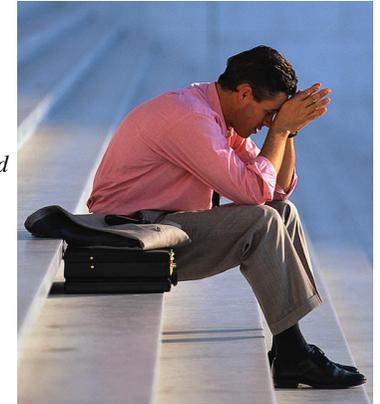
◆ A_____

(Proverbs 12:25) "Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, But a good word makes it glad."

◆ A_____

(1 Kings 21:1-4) "And it came to pass after these things that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard which was in Jezreel, next to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. {2} So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near, next to my house; and for it I will give you a vineyard better than it. Or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its worth in money." {3} But Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you!" {4} So Ahab went into his house sullen and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; ...And he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no food."

(1 Kings 21:4) So Ahab went home, angry and depressed because of what Naboth had told him. He lay on his bed, just staring at the wall and refusing to eat a thing.[paraphrase]



2. _____ despair,

◆ Self-_____ (He _____ it), verse 5

(Psalms 42:5) "Why are you in despair, O my soul? .." [paraphrase]

◆ He _____ it, verse 5

◆ He _____ himself of _____, verses 5-6, 8, 11

(1 Kings 19:11-12) "Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; {12} and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice."

◆ He _____ to _____ God, verse 11

(2 Corinthians 10:5) "... bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,"