

## This month's letter is from Pastor Garry Owen-Kelly

### Does God Care?

Do you remember the last time you experienced a challenging or difficult situation? Maybe you're in the middle of one right now. We usually don't get excited about going through them, do we? In fact, when trouble comes, we sometimes ask, 'Why is this happening?' It's just human nature to try and figure things out. So, when we're in the middle of a situation, we can quickly find ourselves trying to reason our way through it.

We generally want to know 'Why, God, why?' or 'When, God, when?' We want to know *now* how everything is going to work out. But when we trust God, we have to get comfortable with not knowing everything. Can you, me, each one of us who call on God be 'happy, content, full of faithful trust not knowing how God is going to accomplish what needs to be done and not knowing when or if He will do it? Instead, God wants to direct our paths - Psalm 23:3 and Psalm 37:23 - and that means He sometimes leads us in ways that don't make sense at all to us. If we try to figure everything out, we will experience struggle and confusion.

But there is a better way. Instead, we can completely lean on Him, believing He wants what's best for us. I know it's easier said than done, especially when 'the things of life happen'. Those times when we can't quite see just yet how everything is going to work out for us and we're tempted to take matters into our own hands. 'It's okay God I know how to make things better'. It's okay God I've got the answer to this issue, it happened to my best friend as well, so I know. But Proverbs 3 Wisdom Bestows Well-Being verses 5-6 says: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

Saying we trust God is one thing, but when we really trust Him and lean on Him, we enter His rest. It's a special kind of rest that you can have even in the middle of the most difficult circumstances. Everything doesn't have to be perfect, and you don't have to have all the answers, but you are trusting God to take care of you. Most of us have spent our lives trying to take care of ourselves, but we must learn to trust our lives to His care. When we try to

do things in our own strength and leave God out, we just get worn-out and frustrated. But when we fully lean on God, it brings us His peace. God always has our best interest at heart all the time, and He is close to us when we are hurting most - Psalm 34:18, *The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*

May all our lives be Blessed by God even when we don't know what He is doing! -

**Garry**