

When you are feeling a bit beat up in life, where do you turn for help and hope?

I find great hope in this word, "He will not break a bruised reed or quench a smoldering wick."
Matthew 12:20 (see Isaiah 42:3)

I remember my mentor in the faith, Jim Tozer, would frequently quote the French philosopher, Blaise Pascal, by saying, "Man is but a hollow reed, blowing in the wind," as a way of expressing the fragile nature of our lives. It doesn't take much wind, and, like fragile grass, over we go!

The actual quote from Pascal's *Pensées* is, "Man is but a reed, the most feeble thing in nature; but he is a thinking reed." Feeble we are and easily bruised and wounded.

One of the many joys that come of knowing Jesus, the Lord who loves us, is that when life is piling on and we are ricocheting from one stress point to another, He is building us up! We may trust in His word, "I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete." (John 15:11)

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."
(Matthew 11:28)

"This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord, and was saved from every trouble." (Psalm 34:6)

With joy – E. Stanley Ott, November 9, 2010 Vol. 9, No. 37, *A BRUISED REED*

Prayer Suggestions

- < When we, as Christians, face problems, we should remember the promises of Jesus. In Matthew 7:7 He said, "Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find; knock and it will be opened unto you." We can feel confident that, if we lift up our problems to God in prayer, they will be heard.
- < Now that the election is over, we need to pray that those elected will seek God's guidance as they carry out their responsibilities.
- < Thank our Heavenly Father that we live in a country in which we can elect whom we choose and worship where we wish, without fear.
- < Ask God to bless Pastor Jeff, our session, and all who give of their time and talent to make this church a place of sanctuary and peace for all who come here.
- < Please pray for those on our prayer list who are in pain, going through treatments, facing surgery, dealing with loss, and feeling alone. Ask God to touch each of them with the comfort, peace and healing that only He can provide.