

**Monday, March 23rd, 2020** (from Linda Ebersole)

Hello Friends,

One of the chief characteristics of spiritual maturity is the ability to persevere-even in the face of adversity. God often permits difficulties to come into our lives simply to allow our faith in Him to become stronger. A faith that is never tested and strengthened soon becomes a shrinking one. But if our faith is real, it will stand every test and prove to be an overcoming faith. [from *Amazing Grace* by Kenneth Osbeck]

Ephesians 4:1 tells us to "walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called."

God knows we are prone to worry and fear. That is why we have been given these words: Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4: 4-8

Be encouraged, and encourage one another in the days to come.

Here is a hymn that sets the bar high and provides a good goal in daily trials, large and small:

*O for a faith that will not shrink tho pressed by many a foe that will not tremble on the brink of any earthly woe.*

*That will not murmur nor complain beneath the chast'ning rod, but in the hour of grief or pain will lean upon its God.*

*A faith that shines more bright and clear when tempests rage without, that, when in danger, knows no fear, in darkness feels no doubt.*

*Lord, give me such a faith as this, and then, whate'er may come, I'll taste e'en now the hallowed bliss of an eternal home.*

John B. Sumner, 1838-1918

Be blessed today.