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Cross Creek Weekly Update

June 26, 2011



Good Morning Church:

In the last week I have met with several families going through tremendous trials of life - and all I could think of doing, and all I was capable of doing to help, was to pray. *"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."* (Romans 12:12).



John Piper says, "Tribulation is the normal environment we live in. It is part of the fabric of our fallen world. We cannot avoid it, it lurks around the corner. But Christ has broken into our tribulation and has become the ground and goal of our unshakeable hope. He became man and embraced all our suffering, He chose it and His death and resurrection defeated all of it for our sake." Christ has experienced the pain of tribulation and understands what we are going through - *"For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin."* (Heb 4:15)

Therefore, in tribulation we can rejoice in hope through Christ. Every crisis, struggle, illness, and defeat that life holds is met with hope in Christ - *"³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 8:38-39)

And we can rejoice in hope knowing that the Father hears our prayers and answers them because of His Son. Hope is fueled by being in constant prayer. God knows best - He knows what scares us and He comforts us and turns our fears to hope as we turn to Him in prayer. The crisis may still be there, but God holds us in His arms and will allow nothing to separate us from His eternal love.

Please be in constant prayer for one another. Don't let a day go by without kneeling before the Father in prayer - especially for those in our church family that are going through tribulation. By the way, one of the families that Paul and I ministered to this week was the Harding family, whose son Trey was in ICU, but is now recovering well. Please continue to pray for Trey and for his full recovery.

"O God, awaken and sustain my hope in you. Be my treasure now. And be my inheritance always. Please open the eyes of my heart to see the wonder that you are. Grant me the spiritual taste buds to taste and see and savor that all you are for us in Jesus is better than all the world. And so sustain my hope. And may this hope sustain my joy in tribulation and may this joy sustain my endurance and may this endurance sustain my love for people, and may my love make you irresistibly attractive to the world." (John Piper)

SOS: We need **10 more volunteers** for our Club Blast outreach next Monday thru Friday from 9:00-10:30 am.