

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 2

June 2023



*They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42*

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Dilly (Eye Surgery)  
Sammie Morrison (Cancer, Chemo & Surgery)  
Ben & Sam Morrison  
Barbara Welden (Chemo)  
Grace Bible Church: Zimbabwe  
Brian Chipata Family  
Janice Gauthier (Shoulder Surgery)  
David Gauthier  
Michelle McKenzie  
Governor Bill Lee

If you or anyone you know have any prayer requests, please fill out one of the prayer request forms on our table once you walk in to your left or you can email [bmc Brentwood@gmail.com](mailto:bmc Brentwood@gmail.com)

## BMC OUTREACH

We have had multiple meetings and we are finalizing the details for the BMC Tri-Fold that will be used along with our newsletter and business card as a hand out packet. GET READY! Announcements to follow soon.

## Upcoming Events

<b>BMC Men's Prayer Group</b>	<b>June 3</b>
<b>BMC Outreach Meeting</b>	<b>June 4</b>
<b>CMB Woman's Prayer Group</b>	<b>June 16</b>
<b>BMC Men's Prayer Group</b>	<b>June 17</b>
<b>BMC Outreach Meeting</b>	<b>June 18</b>
<b>GEM Summer Conference</b>	<b>June 23-25</b>
<b>BMC Woman's Prayer Group</b>	<b>June 29</b>
<b>Q&amp;A, Prayer &amp; Fellowship</b>	<b>June 30</b>

This newsletter is divided into 4 sections:

- Prayer Requests
- BMC Outreach
- Upcoming Events
- From The Pastor's Heart

*"Therefore, comfort one another with these words".*  
1 Thessalonians 4:18

## From The Pastor's Heart

### Lesson 101, Part 2

Facing Testing in Four Categories  
(People, prosperity, health, and system)

In our last installment, I had just wanted to share in brief some areas of testing in spiritual life. The overwhelming response to the lesson has been very positive and encouraging.

It motivated me to expand the lesson with anticipation of working it into a book, which would be an answered prayer to one of those blessed by the lesson.

### SELF INDUCED MISERY

We should all work hard to avoid making ourselves miserable. God neither takes pleasure in our misery; nor does He set us up for failure. Let no one say when he is tempted, I am being tempted by God" [for temptation does not originate from God, but from our own flaws]; for God cannot be tempted by [what is] evil, and He Himself tempts no one" (James 1:13 AB).

We need to differentiate between testing and temptation. Testing is designed to measure one's growth; temptation is orchestrated to cause one to fail. Testing is of God; temptation is of Satan. God was testing them to see whether they love God" (Dt. 13:3). On the other side, Satan wanted to bring trouble on the people of Israel, so he made [tempted] David...to take a census" (1 Chr. 21:1 GNT).

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

And zaam, David was in a boiling soup after he succumbed to the temptation and took a census of the people. So, the LORD sent a plague upon Israel, and 70,000 people died as a result" (v. 14 NLT). That's self-induced misery. It could have been avoided.

By disobeying God's law, David brought the suffering upon himself and his people. With the line of demarcation drawn between the two, testing and temptation, I want to start you on a journey of a greater understanding of what's happening in your spiritual walk as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. It's not complicated. It's a journey of either this or that. Either you are walking in the light or you're walking in the darkness.

There are no two ways about it. There can be no confusion in your spiritual journey. You know which road you're on. You have the indwelling Holy Spirit as your GPS.

I inserted the subtle "self-induced misery" to help us get the record straight about life's trials. You may have heard someone who's going through tremendous suffering say something like this, Pray for me; Satan is after me. Or I am being tested." Often, Satan is not after us; and God is not testing us. We have manufactured our own dilemma. It shouldn't be that way. Satan is busy going after the spiritual elites. Dr. Luke remarks, "One of the evil spirits answered them, Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" (Acts 19:15 BSB).

In other words, he's saying, I am interested in setting traps for spiritual giants. When I bring them down, their fall will impact their followers." The truth is sobering. Satan inflicts pain on the spiritual giants; the carnal believers inflict pain on themselves. You should be acquainted with the subject of self-induced misery. "Don't be misled you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant" (Gal. 6:7 NLT). They have planted the wind and will harvest the whirlwind" (Ho. 8:7 NLT).

Avoid planting the wind. If you plant mango, you will harvest mango.

Testing is inevitable for God's children; it comes from God. He uses testing to help the believer in developing spiritual capacity for greater blessing. Scripture confirms, "My brothers and sisters, be very happy when you are tested in different ways.

You know that such testing of your faith produces endurance. Make sure that your endurance carries you all the way without failing, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing" (James 1:2-4 GNT).

On the other hand, self-induced misery is avoidable; it's what we bring upon ourselves by making bad decisions. When you choose to live outside God's ordained perimeter, you are begging for misery in life. When your agenda takes precedence over His, you are asking for misery.

When you ignore His Word, you are asking to be clothed with misery from the eternal bar of justice. When you take God's grace for guaranteed, His justice will lower its boom, "How will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" (Heb. 2:3).

Anyone who has ignored the Law of Moses is put to death without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severe punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?" (10:28,29)

Most of the sufferings in life are not testing related. They are the biproducts of wrong choices. Choices have consequences. Avoid the sin of self-induced misery and indulge in His everlasting grace.

Dr. Charles Stanley put it this way, "God has given us a way to live – the best way. When we choose to go our own way, our life will be one big mess."

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Exploring the source of temptation (the world, the flesh and the devil): To be continued in part 3

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May blessings of heaven be yours in abundance as you seek to deepen your relationship with Him.

9495 Crockett Rd,  
Brentwood, TN 37027

PO Box 3526  
Brentwood, TN 37024

(318) 542-3474



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**Acts 2:42**

<https://www.BethlehemMissionaryChurch.org>