

Application Guide: Singing in the Rain

November 28, 2004: "Singing in the Rain" by Rev. Russ Blowers, former pastor of 91st Street Christian Church in Indianapolis, after 45 years of service to our Lord. Reading from his favorite Scripture passage in Romans 5:1-5, Pastor Russ began his message by describing the scene from the popular MGM movie entitled "Singin' in the Rain" (1952) in which Gene Kelly filled with love went out into the street in the pouring down rain and sang and danced with joy. (See lyrics on page 2).

Using this story as a backdrop, Pastor Russ described how we need to have joy and hope when facing life's difficult situations. As James writes in his letter to the twelve tribes scattered among the nations, we need to "*consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.*" James 1:2-4 (NIV). Pastor Russ describes how the Greek Word *dokimos* is found on the bottom of many pottery items, in the Holy Land, indicating that the items have been *tested and approved*. Such items were subjected to intense heat and did not crack and loose their integrity.

And drawing on an outline on sufferings of Elizabeth Elliot¹, Pastor Russ described how we should rejoice in our sufferings because God has a purpose, *for we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.*" Romans 5:4-5 (NIV)

When we are faced with the down side of life (the rain), how do we respond? Rather than becoming discouraged and despondent, we need to follow Christ and face our troubles with faith, hope and love...singing in the rain. Why, because through it all God is developing our character as he leads us through it all to accomplish His purpose in our lives (Romans 8:28).

Application Questions:

1. Have you recently experienced a down side in your life? How did you respond?
2. How would you have liked to respond? What difference would it have made?
3. As we search the Scriptures, there are many that encourage us to have hope and maintain a positive and joyful attitude of faith that God is at work in our lives? Read and discuss the following Scriptures in light of today's message: Isaiah 40:28-31; Jeremiah 29:11-13; Lamentations 3:31-33, 55-59 and 21-26; Romans 5:1-5; Romans 15:4 and 13; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; and 1 Peter 1:3-7.
4. Are you one who "Sings in the Rain?" Uplift one another in prayer in areas that were discussed this evening, asking for Him to help us respond to life's situations in a way that brings honor and glory to Him.

Resources:

[A Path Through Suffering](#)...discovering the relationship between God's mercy and our plan, by Elizabeth Elliot (ISBN 0-89283-801-9) published by Christian Living.

[We are called to Learn](#) by Richard Krejcir, Director of "Into Thy Word Ministries," in which he describes his interview with Elizabeth Elliott and the impact she made on his life when she shared, "The spear that took my husband shook me from my faith temporarily but not from His love." Article condensed from his book entitled *Finding God's Will for your Life* published in 1997.

Fear no Evil by David Watson. David Watson was a gifted evangelist, and inspiration to many. He was a keen believer in the healing ministry and many were shaken when he developed, and subsequently died of, cancer in 1984. In this book, he shares something of his spiritual, emotional and theological journey during his illness.

¹ Elizabeth Elliot is a noted author, whose missionary husband was speared by South American Indians and upon her return visit to them instead of seeking retribution and revenge, God used her to reach that tribe. Her books include *A Path Through Suffering*, *Passion and Purity*, *Through Gates of Splendor*, *Love Has a Price Tag*, and *Loneliness*.

The Solid Rock

Lyrics: Edward Mote; Music: John B. Duykes

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name. *(Refrain)*

When darkness veils, His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil. *(Refrain)*

His oath, His covenant, His blood
support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay. *(Refrain)*

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in Him be found,
dressed in His righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne.
(Refrain)

Refrain

*On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand.
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.*

I'm Singin' in the Rain

Lyrics: Arthur Freed; Music: Nacio Herb Brown
Artist: Gene Kelly; Movie: Singin' in the Rain

Just singing in the rain
What a glorious feelin'
I'm happy again
I'm laughing at clouds
So dark up above
The sun's in my heart
And I'm ready for love
Let the stormy clouds chase
Everyone from the place
Come on with the rain
I've a smile on my face
I walk down the lane
With a happy refrain
Just singin',
Singin' in the rain

Dancin' in the rain
Dee-ah dee-ah dee-ah
Dee-ah dee-ah dee-ah
I'm happy again!
I'm singin' and dancin' in the rain!