

# Is Something Wrong?

by Roger Day

Has anything ever gone wrong for you? Is something wrong now? Something that we say has gone wrong is often a blessing in disguise, but it is hindsight that reveals that, and not always right away. A few months or years must sometimes pass before we see the blessing in an adversity.

Even small annoying things may be blessings. Twice I have changed a flat tire in my garage. In one case, the tire went down overnight and I discovered it when it was time to take my son to high school the next morning. Another time, my wife pulled into the garage in the middle of a snow storm and then heard the hissing sound. It is far more pleasant to change a tire in the garage than to change it along the highway. I haven't always gotten off easy with flat tires. Driving alone on a long trip years ago, I managed to have two flat tires in the middle of the night. I was then short one tire, there were no businesses open, and cell phones had not yet been invented. It was a character-building experience.

When has intervention taken place in our lives? I suspect we are ministered to in many small ways and in some big ways, yet in such a subtle manner that we often don't realize it. And I believe we often receive what we have not asked for, since God already knows what we need and loves us enough to simply provide it (Matt. 6:8). On occasion, we may be sure that our prayers were answered directly. In any case, we should always thank God for our blessings (Psa. 100). We should also let God know we appreciate the work that the faithful angels do in carrying out their instructions to minister to us (Heb. 1:14). Maybe angels have some prime directive to follow for their work like, "Stay invisible and keep the humans guessing, unless instructed otherwise."

Of course we don't always get off as easy as a simple flat tire. A few years ago, driving home after dark, my wife and I noticed flashing lights and a two vehicle accident on the other side of the divided highway. A helicopter was lifting off, taking a victim to the hospital. I said a short prayer, asking God to help whoever was in that helicopter. I found out a couple hours later that it was one of my own sons that I had prayed for. It was a difficult time for me. I am so thankful that he didn't die that night, but instead finally recovered from his injuries. When trying things happen, we know that it is foolish to think of facing life without God's help (Psa. 23, Psa. 46).



We or our loved ones may endure a health crisis from time to time. We lose jobs. We get yelled at or threatened. We face some of our own internal character flaws, not too mention the flaws of others. Life goes on. Babies are born. There are weddings, but also funerals to attend. We suffer loss, or we are anxious for our friends and family in their adversities. And it seems that we are allotted only a few days of respite from some type of trying circumstance (Job 14:1).

Yet we are not tried more than we can stand, if we have a meaningful relationship with God (1 Cor. 10:13). No doubt we should count most everything that seems to go wrong as a blessing, because that is how most of them appear when we look back (Rom. 8:28). Enduring our trials may even be a blessing of inspiration to someone else. Getting through a trial makes one stronger and wiser. Oh sure - sometimes we don't feel like building any more character and would just like a break. But the narrow path to salvation is a bit rocky, and that serves a purpose.

God can see just how determined we are to get down that path (Matt. 7:14). We fall sometimes, and then get back up. Hopefully, we'll all finish our journey, even if it is with bloody knees, scraped arms and legs, and gravel imbedded in our hands. And in the end, what seemed to go wrong won't matter when that big something – salvation – goes very right (Rom. 8:18-19). Then during the Millennium, as part of the Kingdom of God on earth under Christ as King, we'll go about ministering to others not yet saved. And we will not have any trouble empathizing with them, will we? Now are you sure something is wrong?