

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Yet Trouble Came

In the Bible, there are not many stories that leave us speechless when it comes to undeserved suffering than that of Job. He was described as “blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil” (Job 1:1), in fact, Job’s character stood as a model for righteousness. He was devout, generous, and steadfast, consistently seeking God’s will. Yet, despite his uprightness, Job was not exempt from the storms of life. His story reminds each Christian that trouble can knock on the door of the most devoted brother or sister.

From the very beginning, Job’s life reflected God’s favor: he enjoyed great wealth, a large family, and good health. Then without warning, disaster struck. In rapid succession, Job lost his livestock, his servants, and his children (Job 1:13-22). All this was made worse by the painful sores that attacked his body. Friends who came to comfort him instead questioned his integrity (Job 2:11-13). His wife, seemingly overwhelmed by his suffering, urged him to curse God and die (Job 2:9).

Many might ask, why does the righteous suffer? Job’s story does not shy away from this question. Instead, it shows that faithfulness does not guarantee freedom from hardship. The very purpose of Job’s trial was to test whether his devotion would withstand severe loss and confusion (Job 1:9-11). Indeed, Job lamented, argued, and questioned God’s justice. Yet, throughout his pain, Job never forsook his faith. He was honest about his struggle, but he remained in conversation with God and refused to sever the relationship that was his lifeline.

Job’s experience teaches us several crucial lessons. Firstly, suffering is not always a sign of God’s displeasure with us or any personal sin (Job 14:1). Most times we will never know the reasons behind our troubles. However, it is not our task to discover every reason, but to hold fast to God despite uncertainty. Secondly, faith can coexist with questions. Job’s cries of anguish reveal that bringing our doubts and despair to God is a form of worship—a refusal to walk away (Job 19:25). Finally, Job’s story points to restoration. Though his losses were profound, God eventually restored Job’s fortunes and blessed him even more than before. But the richest restoration was spiritual: Job came to know God more deeply than ever, proclaiming, “*My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you*” (Job 42:5).

As we reflect on Job, may we remember that being upright does not spare us from trouble, but trouble should not separate us from God (Rom. 8:35), whose presence sustains us even in the darkest valley.

~Bro. R. Webster

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMINDERS

~Please silence your *phones*. 
~No *eating nor drinking* inside the auditorium.

New guests please complete a **Welcome Card**.
Returning guest, upon *each* visit, please *print* your name in the **Returning Guest Log** in the foyer.

A **Suggestion Box** and **Prayer Request** cards are located in the foyer.

Contributions can be made electronically via **Zelle** (*recommended*) using the church’s email-
westhammondccoc@gmail.com.

Contact the church’s secretary at 219-742-9520 for any of the following:

- ◆ **Requests** or **announcements** to be made or to be included in the bulletin.
- ◆ If you would like a list of the **absent members**.

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

Sunday evening worship service needs the support of our members. It starts at 6:00 pm, and we endeavor to abide by Hebrews 10:25 “*not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.*” Invite friends and families to attend.

OUR CONGREGATION’S EVANGELISM PROGRAM

Every member is expected to get involved in the evangelistic mission of the church. Following Jesus’ example and teachings, we are to be seeking and saving the lost. Luke 19:10

PRAYERS

Bro. Bowles, friend of Bro. Hardy and member of Chicago Hts. CoC, The Simmons, Bro. Ahmad Powell, Dr. Wagner, friend of Sis. Bell, Sis. Washinton & family, Sis. McKnight & family, the Lightfoots, Bro. & Sis. Arthur Davis, Sis. Janece Riley, Sis. Chaff, the Hardys and Vladis Reynolds, the mother of Sis. Hardy, Sis. Whitney Taylor and her co-workers, the Mendenhalls, Levell Chaff, brother of Sis. Chaff, Bro. Darrell Hicks, the Brantfords, the Goldmans, Sis. Ellis, Sis. Laurene Cunningham, Irene Herron, Quince Dixon, and Vera Johnson, sisters of Sis. Laurene Cunningham.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The sermons are recorded and can be accessed via the church’s YouTube channel. Go to YouTube and type in West Hammond Church of Christ and click, “Playlist”. **YouTube is no longer live.** For this Wednesday’s Bible class we will continue with the study of Ephesians. If you have not yet read the book, you are encouraged to do so.

BACK-TO-SCHOOLERS

Special prayers for all students, teachers and other school personnel at all levels for the new school year.

PIZZA & GAME NIGHT

Friday, August 29th from 6-9 p.m. We will be having a pizza and game night for all ages. Please bring your favorite pizza to share (size large) and your favorite game! There will be a sign-up sheet on the ledge.

TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY

We are in need of volunteers for this position. In the interim, let Bro. Webster know if you or anyone you invite to church needs a ride.

CONDOLENCES

To Sis. Conner and the Minner families. Sis. Conner lost her cousin, Mike Minner, and her nephew, Dondricus Minner. The Young, Conner & Searcy families. Sis. Woodard lost her cousin, Dorothy Fong.

NEW CHRISTIANS’ CLASS

Bro. Webster is teaching this class for all new Christians dating back to 2022.

NEW BIRTHS IN CHRIST

Bro. Ajani Powell was recently baptized. Continue to pray for and encourage him and all our new converts.



BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Bro. Lightfoot
Sis. Brooke Gamble



Wed. 8/13
Fri. 8/15

NO ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

LADIES CLASS NEWS

Sis. Whitney Taylor will continue the lesson on the topic: **Personal vs. Group Accountability. Romans 14:12 & Galatians 6:2**

We are planning on hosting a **Ladies’ Day** this year. The proposed date is October 25th. All ladies are needed to be on various committees and to start preparations for this big event. Please be prepared with ideas and willingness to volunteer. Next meeting date-TBD

Back to School Blessings

Last Week’s Record	
Sunday AM Worship	73
Sunday PM Worship	17
Wednesday Bible Class	38
Last Sunday’s Offering	\$4079.00
Weekly Budget	\$4,069.13