

REAL **TRUTH**. REAL **LOVE**. REAL **HOPE**.

A quarterly newsletter from **Pastor Jeff Schreve** and *From His Heart* Ministries

S U M M E R 2 0 2 2

# HOW TO KEEP ON KEEPING ON IN CHRIST

By Pastor Jeff Schreve

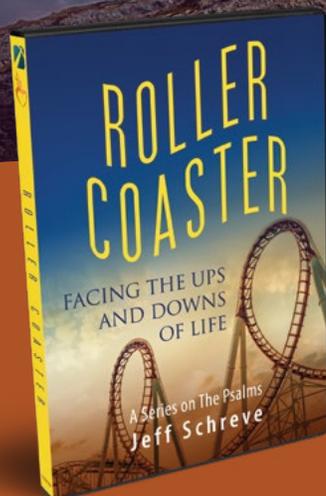
Life is like a rollercoaster. It often feels like an unpredictable ride full of ups and downs that can leave you reeling.

When these tumultuous times come our way—and come they will—what’s the secret to standing firm in Christ? How do you keep on keeping on?

It’s pretty simple, actually.

We must learn to *“fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith ... so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”* (Hebrews 12:2–3)

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**REMAIN STEADFAST  
IN TUMULTUOUS  
TIMES!**

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## HOW TO KEEP ON KEEPING ON IN CHRIST *(continued from p. 1)*

Spending time in the Psalms is a wonderful way to “fix our eyes on Jesus.” That’s because these prophetic heart-songs, written nearly a thousand years before His coming, point so clearly to the Savior.

Pick up your Bible and give Psalm 22 a quick read, and you’ll see what I mean.

This Psalm paints a vivid and moving portrayal of the cross of Christ. And I want you to see two realities from these verses that will help you persevere in the ups and downs of life.

### **First, Jesus was forsaken by the Father.**

The Psalm opens with the familiar words that, about a thousand years later, Jesus would cry out from Calvary: “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?” (Psalm 22:1).

The incredible answer to Jesus’ question is that the Father turned his face away from the Son for you. “He made Him,

who knew no sin, to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

### **Second, Jesus was brutalized by the people.**

Not only did Jesus endure the *spiritual* torment of being separated from His Father, the cross was also a place of extreme *physical* brutality. “I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint ... My strength is dried up ... They pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones” (Psalm 22:14,16–17).

Why did Jesus endure such horror? It’s often said that it wasn’t the nails that held our Savior to the cross but His unfathomable love for you and for me.

Yes, Psalm 22 takes you to Calvary and helps you realize afresh the boundless love of Christ. Fix your eyes on real truths like this and you’ll be empowered to keep moving forward in Him through all the ups and downs of life!

## Q&A with PASTOR JEFF

**Q: My life seems to be going from bad to worse. Has God abandoned me?**

A: When life is particularly hard, it is easy to *feel* as if God has abandoned you. The truth of the matter is that we are called to walk by faith, not by sight or feelings. What does the Word of God have to say about it? “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5). He will never abandon one of His own!

During the difficult times of life, it is critical to cling to the real truth of the Bible and stand on promises of God’s Word and not on your fickle, faulty feelings.

**Q: Pastor Jeff, I’m not really growing in my faith right now. What can I do about it?**

A: King David was a man after God’s own heart.

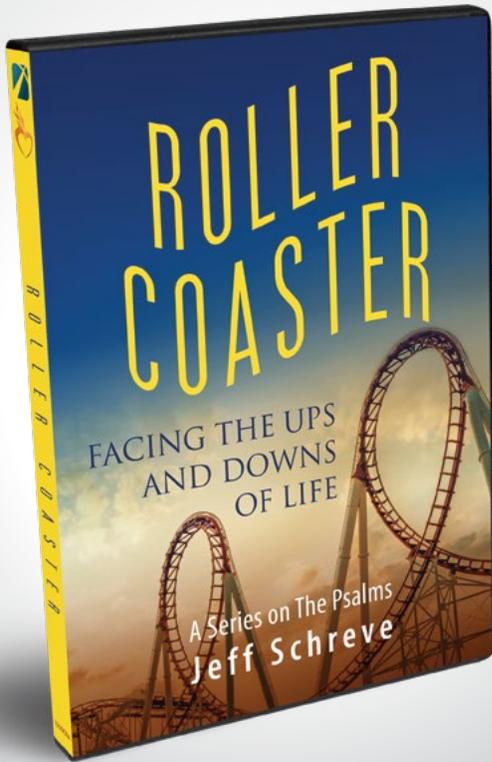
His walk with the Lord was intimate and dynamic. So what was his secret?

You can see it in how he prays in Psalm 27:4: “One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple.”

If you’re feeling stale or stagnant, the remedy is to carve out time each day to “behold the beauty of the Lord.” The Psalms are a wonderful place to start. As you spend unhurried time reading them, they can refresh and rekindle your love for the Lord.



# REMAIN STEADFAST IN TUMULTUOUS TIMES!



Dear Friend,

Want to know the secret to living an unshakeable life of faith? Then I invite you to join me in the Psalms to discover wonderful truths that will empower you to stay steadfast, even in the most tumultuous of times.

These are the real truths I share in my teaching series *Rollercoaster: Facing the Ups and Downs of Life*, which comes as thanks for your gift this month.

Climb aboard on this 8-message series through the Psalms and discover how to follow in the footsteps of the Psalmists and trust God to see you through any hardship. Simply request the *Rollercoaster* series on the enclosed reply card when you make your gift today.

Thank you for your generosity!

*From Debbie's Heart:*

## JESUS KNOWS YOUR PAIN!

A friend of ours in seminary had a great summation for the book of Psalms: Life is Hard but God is good! Simple, to the point, and spot on!

I think we would all agree that life can be really hard. We live in a sinful, fallen world that often leaves us feeling great stress and heartache.

One thing that can fuel this stress is social media. The use of it, with its many different platforms, is prevalent today. Our sense of worth and value can become dependent on how many "views," "likes," or "shares" we have. People post a snapshot of a perfect moment on FAKEBOOK (pun intended!), and we believe that to be their actual life. But that's not real life. Everyone carries their own pain.

When I find myself feeling stressed, defeated, or feeling heartbroken, my favorite book in the Bible to turn to is the book of Psalms. It is encouraging to read real and is filled with honest words about our human emotions, serving as a reminder that even in the midst of difficulties, GOD IS GOOD!

*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. (Hebrews 4:15)*

So, the next time you are feeling low, turn to the Psalms and remember Jesus knows your pain! He loves you, and He is for you!



# A NOTE TO YOU *from Pastor Jeff*

Dear Friend,

The Bible says that God is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. But the tragedy is that many Christians don't enjoy this kind of close, intimate relationship with the Lord.

According to Psalm 62, one of the keys to intimacy with God is honesty:

*Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before Him ...*

So let me encourage you to be honest before God ...

Honest about your *sin* ...

Coming to God in honesty means no blame-shifting or self-justifying. You need to put aside your pride and face up to the sinful state of your heart.

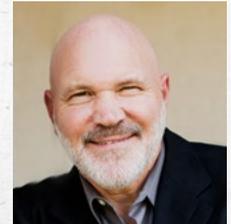
And honest about your *struggles*.

Coming to God in honesty means being real about your deepest anxieties and concerns—even the ones that no-one else knows.

I pray you and I will both know ever-increasing closeness with God as we openly and honestly “*pour out our hearts before Him!*”

And I'm so thankful for your partnership to proclaim real truth, real love, and real hope through *From His Heart* to help more people all over the world come into this same intimate relationship with God through Jesus Christ!

Love,



## YOU'RE HELPING PEOPLE LIKE LAURA FIND WONDERS IN GOD'S WORD!

Psalm 119:18 says,

*Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your law.*

God is using your support to fulfill this Scripture all around the world as you help listeners like Laura delight in the real truth of God's Word. She writes...

*"I love listening every Sunday morning. I love your passion for the Lord and the ease of understanding His Word through you. I will continue to watch, learn and grow [through From His Heart]."*

Your partnership makes it possible to touch more lives like Laura's. Thank you!