

# The Exchanger

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THE NEWSLETTER  
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The Mission of  
FBCWR:  
**Connecting People  
to God's Life-  
Changing Power**  
  
**We've Got  
Connections!**

*For momentary, light  
affliction is producing  
for us an eternal weight  
of glory far beyond all  
comparison.*

2 Corinthians 4:17

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## Who's Counting?

*Job 2:9-10 - Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!" But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?"*

A few weeks ago I was talking to my seven year old niece. She told me she had had 8 blessings that day. I said, "Oh yeah, name 'em". She was surprised I challenged her accounting (Enron era), but still managed to tick off 8 good things that had happened that day. I was very impressed and was reminded that counting blessings is a powerful mood-altering exercise. Take a minute and list 3 blessings that you have had today. *C'mon, play along—this is an interactive article— list 3.* Now doesn't that brighten you up just a little? There are plenty of blessings to count in this country of prosperity, freedom and privilege. We have much to rejoice over.

But sometimes trials pile up too. We may tire of counting them. Job had two huge trials that led his wife to basically say, "Job, give it up. Curse God and maybe He will take your life and end your misery." One can empathize with her grief. This couple had experienced the death of, count 'em, all 10 of their children, and the total destruction of their countless belongings and fortune— all on the same day. Soon after, Job contracted a horrible skin disease that had him climbing the walls of pain. This was not exactly material for the annual Christmas letter.

I think Job's story is highlighted in the Bible because God wanted to show us a plain guy—a human with faults and weaknesses, who faced some of the worst Satan could dish out (with God's permission) and still maintained a good attitude.

But Satan is toothless compared to the power of self-pity—one of our most formidable foes. It takes us down a path of self-absorption, rationalization of sin and isolation. It is like voluntarily checking ourselves into the county jail. But Job is an example of how to handle adversity. He said, "*Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity.*" Job was basically saying,

I am the clay, He is the Potter. I will submit myself to Him. He has been so good to me so if HE chooses that I go through hardship, how can I grumble at Him. He is good and He is good all the time.

My family has had to face adversity with my recent diagnosis of the dreaded c-word—cancer. Doctors have still not determined what kind of cancer it is yet, but He Who allows us to suffer has a higher purpose—just as He did with Job. In the end, Job counted even more blessings when God was finished prospering him. So in 2003, let's "count it all joy when trials and tribulations come our way" (James 1), for God is working His higher purposes to bring more blessings. Count on it!

-Joe Fornear