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Here's Hope
by Rev. Jerry Rea

Wings

Do you know the legend of the birds? Years and years ago birds had no wings... instead God decided to give them a burden to carry about all day long. As they lived under their burden, it became attached to their backs and then became wings... and they learned to fly. The idea of this story/ legend is that in life all of us have burdens to bear and as we carry them we learn to fly.

The idea in the Bible is even better (of course). Romans 8:28 teaches us that God is a master weaver. He weaves the events of our lives together, good and bad, to make something wonderful. "All things work together for good" under His watchful care. So, contrary to the legend of the birds... it doesn't just "happen." God works it all together for good. Whose good? Our good. Mine, yours and God's. Sometimes the events of our lives are not for our own good/ glory, but for His. Sometimes the things we believe are "happenstance" is orchestrated for someone else or for eternity, not for this moment.

Why is the Bible idea better? It includes God. Since He loves us, He watches over us even in the tough times. He is above the fray. He thinks beyond this moment - He thinks of eternity. He wants not just good for us, but the best. So... He weaves together our good days and our bad days, our mistakes, failures (even sins), our rebellions (almost daily), our confusion, our bad attitudes, our inadequacies, our needs, and our pains. Do you think God is aware of all that "negative" stuff? Do you think God is involved with us even when we're involved in that negative stuff? The answer is yes, yes, yes. We seem to have a mistaken notion that God is only involved when we are good, or the circumstances of our lives are good. So, if God is aware and involved, what is He doing? He's weaving. He's weaving it all together for good. He makes us beautiful through it all - using it all. He gives us wings.

And then, one day... we fly away.

Learning to fly,

Jerry Rea