

BRIGHT STAR

COMMUNITY CHURCH

A STAR in the West Leading People to CHRIST

From Hard Times to Happy Times

Romans 8:18

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us.



From Hard Times To Happy Times

Romans 8: 18 – 25 CSB

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According to a new poll conducted by NORC, the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, only 14 percent of Americans say they are happy. That number is down from 31 percent this time last year and it's the lowest percentage recorded since NORC started collecting their data 50 years ago.

From Hard Times To Happy Times

We've all heard of the term "post-traumatic stress" but less of us are familiar with its sunny cousin, "post-traumatic growth." Whereas resiliency refers to our ability to endure hard times, post-traumatic growth refers to our ability to actually change and improve as a result of those difficult experiences.

From Hard Times To Happy Times

Research on post-traumatic growth has identified five sources of happiness and growth commonly experienced among survivors of tragedy:

a greater appreciation for life

enhanced feelings of personal strength

spiritual growth

closer social relationships, and

the recognition of new possibilities for their lives in spite of the conditions surrounding them.

From Hard Times To Happy Times

Hard times can be defined as the difficulties or the hardships in life that have taken ownership of our physical existence.

From Hard Times To Happy Times

Run DMC said it like this:

Hard times spreading just like the flu

Watch out homeboy, don't let it catch you

**P-p-prices go up, don't let your pocket go
down**

**When you got short money you're stuck on
the ground**

**Turn around, get ready, keep your eye on the
prize**

And be on point for the future shock

Hard times

From Hard Times To Happy Times

But Paul says it like this;

Romans 8:18

**I reckon that the sufferings
of this present time are not
worthy to be compared
with the glory that shall be
revealed in us!**

From Hard Times To Happy Times

He said it to the church at Corinth. In his second letter to them in Chapter 4: 17-18 he says, “for our light affliction which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

From Hard Times To Happy Times

First, we must get to the point that we began to expect more out of ourselves. We first must ignite a vision. When we have a vision we visualize it. When we visualize it we see it. We must visualize the good time. We must visualize being set free; We must visualize changing our lives.

From Hard Times To Happy Times

Proverbs 29:18 CSB ¹⁸ Without revelation

(Vision) people run wild,
but one who follows divine instruction will be happy.

Proverbs 29:18 (NLT) 18When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is happy.

Proverbs 29:18 - (The Message Bible) “If people can’t see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves: but when they attend to what he reveals they are most blessed.”

From Hard Times To Happy Times

The Hebrew word “vision” is not the ordinary word for something that is seen, rather it indicates a revelation from God and in a prophetic sense.

From Hard Times To Happy Times

Secondly we must have faith. We have to believe that it's coming. We have to believe our breakthrough is just around the corner, We have to believe that God is still in the miracle working business.

Hebrews 11:1 CSB Living by Faith 1 Now faith is the reality(Substance) of what is hoped for, the proof (Evident) of what is not seen.

From Hard Times To Happy Times

Finally, we have to face the reality that what we see and experience today will soon be in our past. Face the reality that trouble don't last and can't last always if Jesus is on our side.

I submit to you today that God wants us to move. He wants us to move in his will regardless of our present circumstance. Paul says in the text that these present sufferings are nothing compared to the glory that will be revealed in us.

From Hard Times To Happy Times

Psalms 30:5

For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

From Hard Times To Happy Times

Romans 8:28-30

We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; and those he called, he also justified; and those he justified, he also glorified.

From Hard Times To Happy Times

Paul wants us to come away from the text not with theological questions, but with a renewed assurance that the God who began a good work in us will indeed bring it to completion in the day of Christ Jesus (Phil. 1:6).

From Hard Times To Happy Times

Have you any rivers that you think are uncrossable; and have you any mountains you cannot tunnel through: God specializes in things that are impossible and He can do what no other power can do.

From Hard Times To Happy Times

Like a ship that's tossed and driven, battered by an angry sea; when the storms of life are raging, and their fury falls on me. I wonder what I have done, that makes this race so hard to run; then I say to my soul, take courage, the Lord will make a way somehow.

Chorus: The Lord will make a way somehow, when beneath the cross I bow, He will take away each sorrow, let Him have your burdens now. When the loads bears down so heavy the weight is shown upon my brow, there's a sweet relief in knowing the Lord will make a way somehow.

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