

# Struggles Of The Christian

By Mike Riley

The following is a story of nature demonstrating the fact that struggles are a necessary part of growth and development for the Christian in this life. God places these struggles (or trials) before us to prepare us for that perfect home in heaven with Him.

## The Man And The Cocoon

One day, a small opening appeared in a cocoon. A man sat and watched for the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could and could go no further. The man decided to help the butterfly, so he took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily, but it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings. The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened! In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. It was never able to fly.

What the man in his kindness and haste did not understand was that the restraining cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening was God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.

As Christians, struggles (or trials) are exactly what we need in our lives to grow and develop properly. If God allowed us to go through our Christian life without any obstacles, it would cripple us spiritually. We, like the butterfly, would not be as strong as we could have been. We could never fly!



**STERLINGTON**  
Church of Christ



P.O. Box 82  
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Sunday Morning Bible Classes - 9:30 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 AM  
Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM  
Wednesday Evening Classes - 6:00 PM.

3/22/26

## Welcome Visitors

If you are seeking a church home, we hope that you will consider joining with us. We are a growing congregation, dedicated to worshiping in truth and spirit. Please fill out the Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate!

## Those to Serve

### Today

**Announcements-** Travis Rogers      **Opening prayer-** Gary Harris  
**Communion-** Jerry McDonald      **Closing Prayer-** Ronnie Hayes  
**Sermon-** Don DeLukie

### Next Sunday

**Announcements-** Don Delukie      **Opening prayer-** Lyle Russell  
**Communion-** Travis Rogers      **Closing Prayer-** David Reppond  
**Sermon-** Don DeLukie

## Announcements

—**Men's Meeting and Breakfast:** There will be a Men's Meeting and Breakfast Saturday, March 28th at 9:00 AM.

—Check the bulletin board in the foyer for local events and Gospel Meetings happening in our area.

—**Children's Home Collection:** Our congregation is collecting items for the Children's Home in Paragould, AR. Collection boxes are by the nursery. A list of needed items is in the foyer.

Scan the QR code to visit our website.



## Please Pray For:

Van Martinez, Linda Garris, Kari Johnstone, Bill Schooley, Ethel Ross, Derrick & Katherine Simmons, McKenzie Baker, Jerry Martin, Angela Ross, Jeanette Henderson, Debbie Brantley, Billy Granger, Rhonda Rogers.

## Needing Long-Term Prayers:

Blayne Atkins, Chuck & Shannon Boyer, Jo Darris Collins, Christy McDaniel, Joyce Moses, Debbie Walker, Carey Day, Leo & Shirley Goodwin, Tommy Franklin, Arthur & Sybil Binford, Dan Ross Jr, Dena White, Larry & Joanne Randolph, Bettye Flowers, Dave & Linda Garris, Sharon White-Ross, Bobby Barker, Cindy Smith, Terrance Dawson, Jamie Ross.

**Bereaved:** Families of Peggy Sehon, Katie Harris.



### March Birthdays

1 - Tuscany Martin	21 - Sadie Kate Scharf
8 - Miriam Russell	22 - Shannon Boyer
18 - Debra Dehart	29 - Sharon Ross White
18 - Billy Granger	29 - Chellie Wells
18 - Lyle Russell	

### March anniversaries

9 - Tommy and Glenda Wells

