

## A SURPRISING PLACE FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

by Greg Laurie

(<https://www.harvest.org/devotions-and-blogs/daily-devotions/2017-02-18>)

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.—1 Corinthians 15:58*

Sometimes we think the only place to flourish spiritually is in the midst of other Christians. We want to listen to Christian music, watch Christian television, and wear Christian clothes.

I'm not knocking those things. It's great to be surrounded by Christians and to seek out fellowship with other believers. But you also can flourish spiritually in a difficult situation. Maybe you're in a school where you're not surrounded by people who love the Lord. Maybe you're in a job where they say the name of God, but not the way you like to hear it. Or maybe you're in some other situation where you're saying, "I can't survive here spiritually."

It may be that He has you there for a reason. Or, you may need to move out of that place, and you will have to ask God to give you wisdom. But you can grow and sometimes even become stronger in an environment like that.

Daniel was a spiritual man in spite of the environment he was in. Carried away captive to Babylon, he could have easily fallen into compromise. There in the palace, he literally lived in the lap of luxury. It was a place of rampant idolatry, incredible cruelty, and sexual immorality. Yet in the midst of it all, Daniel remained a righteous man and flourished spiritually.

Sometimes when we are in an environment around Christians all the time, we can put our lives on spiritual cruise control. On the other hand, when we are in a secular environment, it forces us to do one of two things: either blend into the woodwork or stand up and be counted.

Persecution, which is harassment from nonbelievers, can cause us to draw closer to the Lord. So don't give up. Take heart. Stand firm. He will see you through.

## News and Notes

**Soup Kitchen-** The next soup kitchen is this Tuesday, at 5:00pm here at the building. There are still plenty of opportunities to help.

### Birthdays

Tina Rudy	02/03	Ashton Foster	02/12
Claire Foster	02/15	Sonie Iverson	02/29
	Morgan Cross		02/29

If you birthday has been inadvertently left off this list please let Shannon know.

### Those Serving

#### **2/19/2017**

Opening Prayer	Jim	Table: West	Gary
Song Leader	Chris	Center	Chris
Scripture Reader	Pablo	East	Jay
Closing Prayer	Shane	Preacher:	Tom
Devotion:	Shane	Song Leader:	Jay

#### **2/26/2017**

Opening Prayer	Jay	Table: West	Chris
Song Leader	Shane	Center	Jay
Scripture Reader	Tim	East	Jim
Closing Prayer	Jeremy	Preacher:	Tom
Devotion:	Jay	Song Leader:	Shane

**February:** Lord's Supper: Sharon Sidewalks: