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By Faith Do We Partake

As we partake of the Lord's supper, how can we do so in a way that is pleasing in the eyes of God? We often pray that we will do so, but how can we accomplish this? What should our minds be drawn to, should anything be on our minds even during this observance?

Hebrews 11:6, as the Hebrew writer lays forth examples of those whose faith we should follow, he writes, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Read the first part of this verse again, "...without faith it is impossible to please Him..." Here we can conclude that it is only with faith (by faith) that we can please God. Look at the examples of Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, and the rest who follow. What is one phrase we find that precedes each account of obedience? "By faith..."

So we must observe the Lord's supper by faith. Faith in what? Matthew 26:26-28.

Those who have obeyed the Gospel call to salvation and were baptized for the remission of sins, observe this by faith, believing:

1. Jesus is the Son of God. If we do not believe this, then to observe the Lord's supper would be to do so in vain.
2. Jesus was sinless. We must believe that Jesus died on the cross, not because it was a just punishment but because He was a willing and perfect sacrifice so that all who obey can receive atonement for their sins through His blood.
3. The blood of Christ was shed for the remission of sins. Apart from His blood one, the power of God is not found. Therefore, to have access to this power and blessing we must obey the commandments of the Lord and love Him for His willingness to offer such grace and mercy.
4. Jesus died for our sins, but He then arose on the 3rd day (Matthew 28). As a result of Christ having victory over death, He will grant such victory to those who imitate Him.
5. Lastly, by believing that through this observance we enter into covenant with God and anxiously await the coming of our Lord and Savior. For when this day comes, as we stand before His judgment seat, we know He will be faithful and true to His promise and grant us an eternal home in heaven so long as we have remained true to keeping the covenant we have made.

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Good Days and Bad Days

Jacob Holman

If we have lived for very long, we have experienced some good days, but also some bad days. You know how it goes. There are some days where the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and **everything** seems just

right. Then there are other days where the clouds are gathering, the winds are howling, the storms are brewing, and **nothing** seems to be going as it should. Although we've all "been there... done that," we still wish that **every** day were a good day and that **no** day were a bad day!

But that is not a realistic view of life, even for those who are God's people and are living life according to His divine wisdom. The wise man proclaimed that both days **will** come, but also imparted God's wisdom as to how to view good days and bad days when they do come. He wrote, *"In the day of prosperity be happy, but in the day of adversity consider – God has made the one as well as the other so that man will not discover anything that will be after him"* (Eccl. 7:14).

Notice three truths we can learn from the good days and bad days of life.

In the good days of life, rejoice! This bit of wisdom may seem unnecessary. Who in their right mind **wouldn't** be happy when things are going well?! Who wouldn't be thrilled to experience a day where love reigns supreme in our home, where every job or project we attempt at work or school went smoothly, where worship with our brethren sent our soul soaring to new spiritual heights?

Yet, we might be surprised at how many of us don't truly enjoy the good days of life as we should. Perhaps we're too busy to pause and rejoice. Perhaps we're thinking too much about the "bad days" – whether past or future; remember, Jesus said, *"do not worry about tomorrow [or yesterday! – JH]"* (Mt. 6:33). Perhaps we naively think **every** day will be a good day, and therefore, fail to appreciate it as we should. However, God's wisdom says if today is a good day, thank God for it, and rejoice in it!

In the bad days of life, consider! Consider what? For one thing, *"Consider the work of God"* (Eccl. 7:13). When your day has gotten off to a bad start and is only going downhill from there, take a time-out and think about God and His awesome work. Consider the never-ending wonders of His creation, the endless depths of His love for you, the bountiful blessings He continuously brings to your life. It may turn your "bad" day into a "good" day!

But also consider that God has allowed our world to be *"bent"* and there is not much we can do to *"straighten"* it out (Eccl. 7:13). Consider that God has made both days with a purpose in mind, and there's not anything we can do to change that fact! We don't take much time, especially on life's bad days, to consider much of anything – except, of course, how bad our day is going. But if we will stop and consider that God is still in control of our world – and our lives – even in the bad days of life, such days can be beneficial to our spiritual growth.

God has made both days for a reason! Again, we should consider this important truth not only in the *"day of adversity"* (Eccl. 7:14), but every day. Perhaps we fall prey to thinking, "If things are going well in my life, God is with me; but if things aren't going well, God is against me." Maybe that is true, but maybe not. It may be that my day is a "bad day" because of some selfish, sinful choice I've made. But it may just be that today is not such a good day because I'm living in a sin-stained world and, through no fault of my own, I'm suffering the consequences of such.

God allows us to experience good and bad days so that we will learn that we cannot predict what days are coming in our future. That fact alone should remind us that God is in control of our days, and therefore, we must trust Him, whether we're having a good day or bad day.