

**THE SOWER**  
**ARTHUR (IL)\_CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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**The Frailty of Life**

Job's friends sat in silence for a week. He looked so pitiful they didn't know what to say. Then, they opened their mouths; and basically got into an argument with Job. The summary of their argument is this, "Come on, Job! Tell us what sin you did to deserve this happening to you." Job says he has done nothing worthy of all these bad things happening to him.

However, here is what Job does say, "How frail is humanity! How short is life, and how full of trouble! Like a flower, we blossom for a moment and then wither. Like the shadow of a passing cloud, we quickly disappear. Must you keep an eye on such a frail creature and demand an accounting from me?" (Job

Job says things we don't care to admit. First, life is frail. This is seen the clearest when one's parents or grandparents age. Those who we looked up to for their hard work and their drive slowly get to the point where they are not able to do for themselves anymore. Even the strongest among us become frail.

Second, life is short. Likely, most of us had a classmate die when we were still in school. When I was in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, a classmate died of cancer. I'm sure I asked questions that were troubling for my parents. All of this is a reminder of the brevity of life. Even those who live a long life talk about it flying by. An eighty-year-old man told me at the age of 25 that 80 years may seem like a lot now, but it isn't. I'm over halfway to 80. I've got a better idea of what he was talking about. The years fly by!

Third, human life is like a flower. Have you ever bought a bouquet? Have you ever received some flowers? Then, you know the routine. They look pretty for a few days and then they wilt. Aren't you offended that human life is compared to a wilting flower?

Fourth, Job says that God demands an accounting. God holds us responsible for our actions. Even though our life is frail, and short, and like a flower; God expects us to use our life for good. He doesn't want us to squander the brief time we have. One of my grandpa's favorite hymns is playing in my head, "As the life of a flower, be our lives pure and sweet. May we brighten the way for the friends that we greet; and sweet incense arise from our hearts as we live close to Him who doth teach us to love and forgive." Yes, flowers

may be short lived, but they do a lot of good. And we can too! How are you using the time God has given you? He will demand an accounting. Use your life for His glory! --Jimmy Hodges

**Worry** is a conversation you have with yourself about things you **cannot** change.

**Prayer** is a conversation you have with God about things you **can** change

**(ABORTION** was made “legal” 46 years ago, by the U.S. Supreme Court, as of this Tuesday. I was going through my file folder regarding abortion, and came across this article I had saved from the July '89 issue of *American Family Association Journal*. The sad fact is that it is totally conceivable. I find it difficult to understand the rationale of the acceptance of abortion while the baby is even partially within his/her mother, but it becomes murder just a few seconds later when the child has been delivered. I read some time back an abortionist who was charged with murder in the deaths of 7 infants. He allowed them to be born, and then proceeded to ram scissors in the back of their necks and “clip” their spinal cords. A heinous crime, without doubt; but the question is, Why is killing them before delivery, even during partial-birth, any less of a crime???)

### **Where Abortion Is Headed in the Future**

AFA recently received a letter from Save-A-Life of Macon, Georgia. It was from a woman named Jane. The letter was dated January 22, the year 2023.

“Dear Mom,

“Gosh, can you believe it's 2023 already? I'm still writing “22” on nearly everything. Seems like just yesterday I was sitting in first grade celebrating the century change!

“I know we haven't really chatted since Christmas. Sorry. Anyway, I have some difficult news and I really didn't want to call and talk face-to-face.

“Ted's had a promotion, and I should be up for a hefty raise this year if I keep putting in those crazy hours. You know how I work at it. Yes, we're still struggling with the bills.

“Timmy’s been ‘okay’ at kindergarten, although he complains about going. But then he wasn’t happy about day care either, so what can I do?”

“He’s been a real problem, Mom. He’s a good kid but quite honestly, he’s an unfair burden at this time in our lives. Ted and I have talked this through and through and finally made a choice. Plenty of other families have made it and are much better off.

“Our pastor is supportive and says hard decisions sometimes are necessary. The family is a ‘system’ and the demands of one member shouldn’t be allowed to ruin the whole. He told us to be prayerful, consider all the factors and do what is right to make the family work. He says that even though he probably wouldn’t do it himself, the decision really is ours. He was kind enough to refer us to a children’s clinic near here, so at least that part’s easy.

“I’m not an uncaring mother. I do feel sorry for the little guy. I think he overheard Ted and me talking about ‘it’ the other night. I turned around and saw him standing at the bottom step in his pj’s with the little bear you gave him under his arm and his eyes sort of welling up.

“Mom, the way he looked at me just about broke my heart. But I honestly believe this is better for Timmy too. It’s not fair to force him to live in a family that can’t give him the time and attention he deserves. And PLEASE don’t give me the kind of grief grandma gave you over your abortions. It is the same thing, you know.

“We’ve told him he’s just going in for a vaccination. Anyway, they say the termination procedure is painless.

“I guess it’s just as well you haven’t seen that; much of him. Love to Dad. –Jane”

## **THE MOST CARING CHILD**

Author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia once talked about a contest he was asked to judge. The purpose of the contest was to find the most caring child.

The winner was: A four-year-old child, whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman, who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap and just sat there. When his mother asked him what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy just said, "Nothing. I just helped him cry." --  
Selected

**PRAY FOR:** Sammie has been found to have colon cancer, and awaits word as to procedures to deal with it. \*\*\* David Ferguson and Bill Livesay (Mattoon) are scheduled for a kidney transfer on the 29<sup>th</sup>. \*\*\* Pray for those in authority that they may seek the wisdom of God to rid our nation of turmoil an godlessness.