



A hard time to be pregnant

Vol. 20, No. 3

a publication of

Life Matters
WORLDWIDE

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THE EMAIL BEGAN ON A POSITIVE NOTE—"Praise the Lord!!"—but continued in a tone of desperation: "Would you please help me to do what I must do?" Peter* had our attention.

He went on to tell us his wife's pregnancy test had come back positive and the baby was about two months gestation. "I am literally crying over what to do because we already have two sons under two years of age." His panic was palpable.

We've received many similar emails from people who visit the "**Need Help?**" section of our website. They describe difficult situations in which pregnancy is an added complication. They wonder why God would send a baby at that moment.

It's impossible to answer that question. God has His reasons, some of which we may never comprehend. But we do know God is involved in every pregnancy. He alone gives life, and He stamps His image on every human life.

So, how did we respond?

First, we commended him for acknowledging God and praising Him despite his fear. Then we confronted the unspoken element in his email. Abortion lurked between the lines as one of the things they could do. The pressures of life and the

availability of abortion make it so tempting. He had written us after reading our answers to questions about abortion.

He had also asked for prayer, so we turned him toward the promise of James 1:5—"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him." God will give seekers wisdom about pregnancy, even when it's the result of sexual sin. He doesn't reproach us just because we've made a mess due to our own folly. He is generous and kind in helping us cope.

There are other hopeful words in the passage, such as verse 2: "count it all joy when you fall into various trials." A pregnancy that is "just right" in God's timing might seem like a trial to us, but just as we can face sickness or persecution gladly knowing it's within God's sovereign will, so we can also face this challenge with God's help.

Verse 12 says, "Blessed is the man who endures temptation." When we persevere in faith and refuse to sin under pressure, we're like Job in bringing great glory to God. Indeed, pregnancy is the perfect time to practice faith and watch it grow.

Verse 17 says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights." Whether or not we initially think of a new child as a gift, all that He gives is good and perfect. We

can and must reorient our thinking toward giving Him thanks.

Other messages from James' epistle correct the notion that abortion could be a solution. Verse 22 says we should "be doers of the word, and not hearers only." When we know God's word says that He is the Giver of life, that human beings are made in His image, and that we ought not kill each other, then abortion cannot be His will. It is never a wise choice and never something His Spirit will tell us to do.

Similarly, verse 27 exhorts us all to care for widows and orphans, which includes not abandoning women and children to abortion.

A MONTH AFTER sharing these things with Peter, he wrote back to thank us for a new perspective on God's word. "The Lord Jesus Christ has helped us to keep this baby, now three months continuing in the womb. Kindly pray for us!" We connected him with a pastor in his country who would confirm their decision and continue to offer encouragement.

If you or someone you know is struggling with an unexpected pregnancy or a past abortion, email help@lifemattersww.org. We'd love to do what we can to encourage you from God's word.

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