

Worldly people tell us again and again that God is a crutch, something only for those who are too weak to stand on their own feet. While it is true that God supports us in many ways, it can in no way be said that he is a crutch. If there is anything that I learned from spending two months on crutches, it is the fact that crutches are extremely painful, and are extremely clumsy. And the life of a Christian with God is just the opposite. God is not a crutch, but a smooth foundation, upon which we can walk through life without stumbling.

This idea that God is the Rock is a beautiful one that is expressed many times in the scriptures. For instance, in Psalms 62:6,7, we read, "He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honor depend on God ; he is my mighty rock, my refuge." God is a rock that is not just some little pebble; it is gigantic, immovable, and God can plant us firmly upon it. In Psalms 18:1-3 we read, "...I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold ..." God will put us up high, so to speak, so that we can see when our enemies are about to attack. In Psalms 40:2, we read, "He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand." God will take us out of the pit of darkness and sin and enable us to see. He will take us out of the sticky mud, which also represents sin, and will place us on smooth ground where we can really maneuver.

In Exodus 17:6 we read of Moses striking the rock in the wilderness which gave unto the Israelites life-giving waters. This Rock was a type of Christ, for in 1 Cor 10:4 we read, "and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ." And then in Matt 16:13-20 we read how that Christ will build his church upon the rock which is the fact that Christ is the Son of the living God. Remember the Prudential commercial slogan about having a piece of the rock? With God you get the whole rock!

So instead of someone stumbling around crippled and blind, I see the Christian as one who can run the race of life the most gracefully. God in fact warns that sin is like a crutch that someone leans upon and it breaks and pierces the flesh of the one who uses it. Sin is the real crutch, which entices us all at one time or another to lean upon it, and it pierces us through with many sorrows.