Fatigue, Frustration & Focus

ver the last few weeks Jennifer and I have been experiencing a wave of different emotions. The first emotion is one of fatique. In many ways we're physically exhausted. With all of the

PrayerRequests

- Pray for me as I prepare two messages to preach Labor Dayweekend at my parent's church. Pray that I would be adequately prepared, and that my messages would be clear and well organized.
- Pray for our support. Pray that God would lead us to people who have both the desire and ability to give to our ministry.
- Pray that during this support-raising time God would continue to teach us to trust in Him.

traveling we've done, along with the many weekend obligations we've had, it's been difficult for us to just take time out to relax and be together. In fact, it's now the last weekend in August and the first weekend since June that we haven't either been out of town traveling or had some function or obligation that has consumed our weekend.

The second emotion we've been dealing with is one of frustration.

Since we've been married support-raising has been a long and often frustrating process.

Though we've made many phone calls, mailed numerous letters and met with a number of people, very few people have been able to be a part of our ministry financially.

At times we've caught ourselves wondering what God is doing and even questioning (gasp!) His ability to provide.

I've begun to realize that in many ways I'm just like the Israelites, who, for forty years in the desert constantly complained and questioned God's ability to provide, even though He proved faithful over and over again.

Recently, my dad asked me to preach in his church over Labor Day weekend. I agreed. I've been



preparing a few messages from the book of Ephesians. The first message is from the first chapter

and is entitled "The Wealth of the Christian".

As I've been studying the first chapter, I've been reminded of the many blessings with which God has richly blessed me. Here's a summary of the blessings:

- · He chose us in Him to be holy and blameless.
- · He predestined us to adoption as sons.
- In Him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- He made known to us the mystery of His will.
- · We've obtained an inheritance.
- We've been sealed with the Holy Spirit, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance.

The end result is that I've been forced to focus on God rather than my situation.

As I reflect back on the last 5 years, I realize that God has been faithful to provide for all my needs and He will continue to do so - that's His nature.

Jennifer and I are confident that God will provide for our financial needs and we're thankful for your faithfulness in giving to and praying for our needs. Please continue to pray for us.