

THE DOG IN THE WELL

Bruce Shelley of Denver, Colo., tells a story about a dog that fell into a farmer's well.

After assessing the situation, the farmer decided that neither the dog nor the well was worth the bother of saving. He would bury the old dog in the well and put him out of his misery.

When the farmer began shoveling dirt down the well, initially the old dog was hysterical. But as the dirt hit his back, the dog realized every time dirt landed on his back, he could shake it off and step up. "Shake it off and step up; shake it off and step up!" he repeated to himself.



No matter how painful the blows were, the old dog kept shaking the dirt off and stepping up. It wasn't long before the dog, battered and exhausted, stepped triumphantly over the wall of that well. What seemed as though it would bury him actually benefited him – all because of the way he handled his adversity.

What about us?

The adversities that come along to bury us usually have within them the potential to bless us, Shelley concluded. "Forgiveness, faith, prayer, praise and hope are some of the biblical ways to shake it off and step up out of the wells in which we find ourselves."

That is good advice, indeed. All of us have circumstances, struggles, and setbacks that confront us along life's road. That's the way life is.

How we deal with those challenges – beginning today – helps shape our character.

– Beecher Hunter