

# THE ELM AND THE PINE

Several years ago, the *Wall Street Journal* carried a story about Sally, an overly conscientious youngster who made herself miserable over the smallest failures and setbacks. Early one fall, when there was an exceptionally heavy snowstorm, Sally's grandfather took her for a drive.

"Notice those elms," he said. "The branches are so badly broken that the trees may die. But just look at those pines and evergreens. They are completely undamaged by the storm. My child, there are two kinds of trees in the world: the foolish and the wise. An elm holds its branches rigid. As it becomes weighted down, eventually its limbs break. But when an evergreen is loaded, it simply relaxes, lowers its branches, and lets the burden slip away. And so it remains unharmed. Be a pine tree, granddaughter."

What about you?

You can be like the elm tree that tries to bear all its troubles, only to break under the load.

Or you can become like a pine because you are learning to roll all your burdens onto the Lord. Christians who give up their cares to God can face life's burdens much better than those who try to bear the weight themselves.



– Beecher Hunter