

**Devotion, Week of September 29, 2024**  
**Rev. Jeanne Simpson**

Well, I think we had fun dealing with the 10 questions and answers from last week's devotion, and hopefully you learned some things about the Bible in the meantime!

I have been stunned this week with the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. The tragedies just keep mounting. For those of us with little to no damage, it just seems inconceivable. We had damage to our beach house 3 times from hurricanes, but the house was never destroyed or required intensive rebuilding. We mostly got debris from houses across the street on the ocean side all over our yard. We had a 130 foot tall tree go through the back of our house in Snellville from hurricane Irma in 2018, and that was horrible enough. But all could be repaired.

I have been checking on my friends and relatives in western N.C., and it is devastating. Homes with families in them gone – swept down river. Lake Lure full of debris. The little town of Chimney Rock completely obliterated by floods and a mudslide. Roads washed away. No power or water and little way to get to the folks to help them. We need to pray earnestly for all the victims as they struggle through this time of desperate loss. I cannot fathom what it is like to stand there and look at what used to be your home and see only ripped up fragments of sheet rock and lumber. Being homeless, or being helpless in a home with no power or water or food, is a condition that is frightening, depressing, and overwhelming.

If you feel like contributing to the cause to help these victims across the South, please consider writing a check to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance – they are currently already in Tampa Bay Presbytery, Presbytery of Western North Carolina and Northeast Georgia Presbytery working with relief agencies.

Let us pray for basic necessities, hope, and healing for all those affected by this horrendous disaster.

*Jeanne*