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Glorious Gospel



**Thanks be unto God
for his unspeakable gift.**

II Corinthians 9:15



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ANNOUNCEMENT

**Printing Testimonies from the saints called SHARING.
Please send your testimony, either by mail or e-mail. Thank
you in advance.**

GRATITUDE?

Gordon Crook, Pastor
Grace Assembly, Wichita, Kansas

“Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, . . . And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.” Deuteronomy 8:11-18 (Please read this entire passage)

What is true gratitude? Where does it come from? Why does it matter?

True gratitude comes from a humility that recognizes that what we have is not of our own accomplishment. Not a single one of us had any hand in our own existence. Only God can give life. When you start here, then you must recognize that everything after that is based on that first fact. I am not capable of accomplishing anything except that God gave me life and further enables me to continue that life. **“Who being the brightness of [his] glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, . . .” Hebrews 1:3.**

If indeed everything from the beginning of my life is dependent upon God, then would I not have a sincere sense of gratitude? Our old nature inspired by the culture in which we live would have us show some sense of

gratitude for the really “good” things that come in our life. However, we then can complain and murmur about the “bad” things that come in our life.

Perhaps this is exactly why Paul reminds us, in Romans 8:28, that all things work together for good to those that belong to God. We often say that we believe this, but the way we know if we believe it is our attitude when things do not go the way we wanted them to. If we truly believe, then we will be grateful even when things go “wrong.”

We also must recognize that we do not, did not, and will not “deserve” any of what God provides for us. Most people will argue that we do deserve certain things. There are certain things that are “human rights” based on humanist thinking. The truth is that there is nothing that we deserve, except for God’s wrath. I know this is not popular, but it is the truth. This makes me extra grateful for a God that loves me and has, through Christ Jesus, provided all that I need even though I do not deserve it.

Where does this kind of gratitude come from? It comes from the New Creation that is in us. The life of Christ that is transforming our heart from a hard stony heart to a heart that is true to God. This transformation is changing our attitudes every day as we yield to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Paul reminds us of the characteristics of the old nature. **“For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,” 2 Timothy 3:2.** Notice the **“unthankful”** which in Greek,

is the negative form of “**grateful.**” While this is the natural attitude of human beings, we who have the life of Christ in us, are being changed and should have different attitude of gratitude.

I was impressed with Jesus, while He lived here on this earth, giving thanks to His Father on several occasions. **Luke 10:21, John 11:41, Matthew 15:36, Matthew 26:27** are all examples of this. I think we should recognize that, if Jesus demonstrates an attitude of thankfulness to His Father, we should certainly be following that example.

Why does it matter if we are thankful or not. First of all, what I have already mentioned, that the life of Christ in us will produce this attitude. So, if we say we have Christ, but continue to be unthankful, we are clearly not yielding to that Christ life. This is saddening to our Lord. Remember when Jesus healed in **Luke 17:12-19**. Only one came back to show gratitude. Jesus questioned as to the other nine. Why did they not turn back to be thankful? Does our attention to ourself and our other interests keep us from expressing our gratitude?

I know that we have a day that we call Thanksgiving, and we all have our own way or tradition for celebrating that. However, maybe we should think about every single day as being a day of thanksgiving. When you wake up in the morning are you thankful for God’s faithfulness? When you eat your meals, are you thankful for God’s provision? Every moment of every day is a great time to express our gratitude to our Father.



UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Vicky Moots

Eph. 5:18: "And be not drunk with wine wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit." Paul, in this verse, is contrasting two different situations in which a person can be found to be "under the influence." To be "under the influence" of something means to be under its control. The first situation, physical drunkenness, is condemned in the Scripture because it is harmful. Wine is not condemned, but drunkenness is. The second situation mentioned by Paul is one that should be desired by every Christian: to be under the influence and control of the Holy Spirit. I am going to explain this in more detail by first describing the way in which alcohol adversely affects our physical bodies and then compare that to the beneficial spiritual effects of being filled with the Spirit.

Drunkenness affects the entire body, but the most visible outward signs are its effects on the speech, the difficulty walking, and the actions of the person involved. When a person is physically intoxicated by alcohol, it is usually obvious to those around him because of these signs. Alcohol affects the brain in different stages. It is quickly absorbed and reaches the brain within five minutes. The first thing that happens is a release of dopamine, a feel-good neurotransmitter, that makes you more relaxed and talkative, and can even trigger you to desire more of it. As you continue drinking, it affects your cerebral cortex which controls your thinking and judgment. Next, the cerebellum which controls your balance and coordination,

is affected resulting in impaired speech and gait. A person who is intoxicated is under the influence of the alcohol and loses control of all of these functions. These impairments will continue until the alcohol has been metabolized by the liver, which requires about one hour per ounce.

On the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the 120 believers in the upper room, they all began speaking in other tongues. When the multitude that was in Jerusalem heard them rejoicing and speaking in tongues, some of them mocked, saying, "...These men are full of new wine" (Acts 2:13). They assumed that their joyfulness and altered speech was due to intoxication. However, Peter stood up and declared, in v. 15, "...these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day [9:00 a.m]."

But those that mocked that day were partially right. The 120 believers were all "under the influence" and control of the Holy Spirit. Just as alcohol controls the tongue, actions and walk of those who are under its influence, so does the Holy Spirit. However, the results are different.

The effects of alcohol's control over a person are exceedingly harmful, but the Holy Spirit's control is completely the opposite. He controls our tongue to speak God's Word. He controls our walk so that we can walk a straight path instead of stumbling or staggering. He controls our actions so that they will glorify God rather than bring shame. The joy of the Holy Spirit is a true joy that lasts.

Unfortunately, many Christians today don't want to be "under the influence" of the Holy Spirit. They only want

to take a little sip, just a little taste. They want to remain in control of their lives, their thoughts, their tongues and their actions.

Back in our verse, Eph. 5:18, the word “filled,” regarding the Holy Spirit, is a continuous action verb in the Greek, so it actually means to be “continually filling” with the Spirit. We are to drink and keep on drinking, so that we remain continually “under the influence.” It is more than a one-time event. We need the Holy Spirit’s influence and control every day in our lives for every circumstance.



Be Filled With the Spirit

**You need the fire of God a-burning,
burning in your soul,
Yield all completely to the One
who cleansed and made you whole;
Be filled with the Spirit.**

**You need to be endued with power
coming from on high;
He gives such boldness courage,
strength and grace to testify;
Be filled with the Spirit.**

**You need the precious love of God
to fill and flood your heart;
Our Lord Himself will fill you
for it is His heart’s desire;
Be filled with the Spirit.**

– L. N.



HERE AM I

(Jacob)

Joseph down in Egypt said,
"Bring my father here.
God has raised me up this day;
You have no need to fear."

Jacob took his journey then,
Stopped along the way.
He came unto Beersheba
To worship and to pray.

In the visions of the night,
Dispelling fear and doubt,
Jacob clearly heard God's voice,
And answered with a shout.

"Here am I," his eager cry,
Knowing God would hear.
Listening to his Savior's voice,
His promises were clear.

I will bring you back again,
Greater then before.
Jacob trusted in God's Word,
He couldn't ask for more.

Debbie Isenbletter

(Genesis 46:1-5)



SHARING

Praise Report God's Faithful Provision

Gordon Crook

I am always amazed at just how faithful God is in His provision for the things we need. My entire life is a testament to God's faithfulness, even though I have not always been faithful in my life.

We moved out to the country 24 years ago, and when we did, there was a wood burning stove in the house we bought. We had decided we needed to burn firewood as our main source of heat since propane was very expensive. I cannot remember exactly how we acquired the firewood that first year, only that we found some for free.

In the 24 years that we have lived here, we have only had to purchase firewood one year because I was not sure I had enough and was time constrained to try to find some for free.

One year, several years ago, a very large source of free firewood became available to me within a couple of miles of our house. It was piled up with bulldozers, and we worked very hard for several months to get what we could before they burned the rest in a large pile. That lasted us several years.

In the interim, I have been able to find several smaller quantities of firewood, but as we approached this winter, I felt like I has going to barely have enough for this winter, and certainly none that was curing for next winter or beyond.

My son Jonathan, called me on a Monday and told me that he had seen a property where they were cutting down trees and had a large sign that said "free firewood." I went to check on that, and they were clearing a lot of trees, and even cutting the wood to length and stacking it. The quantity was excessive and I decided to start hauling using the pickup truck.

From that Tuesday until the next Monday I hauled 14 truck loads which will give me firewood for several years. I recognize that this is God's provision for us. The fact that they were cutting the wood to length and stacking it made my job much easier allowing me to take much more than if I had to cut the wood out of a large bulldozed pile.

I am so grateful for God's provision. Getting free firewood may seem like a small thing, but it is God's provision of the small things that reminds me that He is faithful in ALL things.

This year, He has been faithful to allow me to retire from my Engineering job of 37 years. He was faithful to let me keep that job for such a long time with the same company. His faithfulness just continues day after day and always amazes me. Praise the Lord!!!!

* * *

Praise Report

Oliver Combs was born on November 27, 2018. Oliver is our beloved son born to Kristen and Adam Combes and little brother to Jacob 14 and Charleigh 12. Ollie was a kindergartener at Overbrook attendance center. Ollie's joy for life has been in his curiosity, kindness, and unstoppable energy.

In early October 2024 we received life-changing news. After a few days of extreme leg pain, and a visit to our pediatrician led to x-rays, scans and a biopsy that revealed Oliver has osteosarcoma, a rare and aggressive form of bone cancer.

We had our faith in God and lots of people praying for Oliver. We had just started building our new house as we were living in our camper on our land. The devil was sure trying our faith. But we knew God is always with us and would see us through.

The tumor was located on his right distal femur. We began navigating the path of treatment and recovery. Despite the challenges, Oliver has faced every step saying, "Jesus has me." He has showed remarkable courage and strength. Oliver began chemotherapy in October. Praise the Lord our jobs worked with us so one of us could always be in Children's Mercy with him. Praise the Lord my sister lives 4 miles from the hospital so we could go there and rest.

The treatment was intense, but praise the Lord the tumor shrunk. The doctors were shocked how fast it shrunk....we know it was God. Ollie bravely endured long

sessions of medication, his strength and belief kept us going.

January 15, 2025 Oliver underwent a specialized procedure called rotationplasty, which involved removing the tumor and part of his leg while preserving his mobility. This innovative surgery will allow Oliver to run, jump, and play with the help of a prosthetic. The doctors couldn't believe how well the bone graft took so fast and how fast the incision with the nerves and blood vessels were healing. We do it was our Lord. God has helped ollie excel in physical therapy, learning to hop using a walker and navigate life with his unstoppable determination.

After 17 more rounds of chemotherapy Oliver was diagnosed cancer free on June 15th. Praise our holy Lord Jesus Christ. Oliver's journey is far from over, and the road ahead will requite ongoing therapies and adjustments, the financial burden of medical expenses and travel for treatments, and specialized prosthetics is significant. Oliver's bright spirit continues to shine through even on his darkest days.

We are dealing with insurance issues right now about his physical therapy and he does have to take kindergarten over again because he missed so much. But we know our Lord has his hand in all of it. Thank the Lord for the support our community did on August 9 at the 5K run walk. Thank you everyone for your continued prayers and support.

October 6 Praise the Lord Ollie got his new leg today. Doctors were surprised how well the bone graft healed.

* * *

A Special Blessing From The Lord

Earlene Davis

I want to share a blessing from the Lord that I received in the form of an e-mail. I was so blessed and encouraged by it, and I believe you will be also. The e-mail came from a man named Paul who lives in Missouri.

Paul said in the e-mail, "I found a couple of copies of your wonderful magazine at a hospital in Lee's Summit, MO, and was wondering if it is still being printed. If so, how can I get more copies sent my way? Even back issues. I have July and August 2024. I would like to hear back from you, as I am a 71 year-old disabled man who is caregiver to a wheelchair-bound wife. Good reading material is very welcome in my home."

I just praise the Lord for blessing me so, and also to know that someone passed along the magazine in faith by leaving it in that hospital. The Lord saw to it that it landed in the hands of just the right person. Paul is now on our mailing list and I am sending him a few past copies that were still left over at church.

Just think, I was blessed and Paul was blessed and also the magazines may have been read by others during all those days it was available. I hope more saints when finished with their monthly copy of Glorious Gospel magazine, pass it on to someone or leave it where it is available to others – instead of throwing it away.

* * *

HAPPY PEOPLE

Jack Davis

“HAPPY IS HE THAT HATH THE GOD OF JACOB FOR HIS HELP, WHOSE HOPE IS IN THE LORD HIS GOD.” Ps. 146:5

Is any body happy? What does it take to make a person truly, lastingly happy? One might say, “Oh if I just had this certain thing, or if I could gain that, or if I could accomplish something else.

“HAPPY IS HE”

Wherein Are We Happy? I believe that only God is able to make us come to or realize the greatest possible happiness. **Is a happy person one who is satisfied, being blessed with the fulness of favor from God?** I believe this is the essence of the Word in the Old Testament.

Jesus when speaking to His disciples, expressed such marvelous love and wisdom. He asked them if they understood what He had just done in washing their feet. Then He said; **“if ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.” Jn. 13:17.** Knowing God’s will, obeying His Word is indeed a great promoter of real happiness. In Proverbs 3:13,18 we read of the happiness enjoyed in finding and retaining wisdom.

The queen of Sheba was highly impressed when she had seen evidence of King Solomon’s wisdom, glory, and wealth. She exclaimed in amazement, “The half was not told me.” Then she exclaimed, “happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and hear thy wisdom.” I Kings 10:7-8. What then could we say of our dear Lord? It is stated in Job 5:17, “Happy is the man whom God correcteth...” Are

you receptive to such? We are often prone to despise the instrument He uses.

The context of our text begins with, or is introduced by saying, **“Praise ye the LORD. Praise the LORD O my soul. While I live will I praise the Lord: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.” Ps. 146:1-2.** Let praise be the high activity of the spiritually happy. Have you noticed that praise-worship of the Lord and holy happiness work together? They feed off each other. **It reaches up** to God for His **delight. It reaches down** to the discouraged to lift expectation for his **deliverance.** The **outreach** of praise enables others to see the joy of the Lord in us, and causes them to **desire Him** also.

“My soul rejoices.” “Bless the LORD O my soul.” Such expressions show that this praise comes from **within the heart.** Praise proclaims a positive attitude, an optimistic outlook. This is how we may express a victorious up look accompanied with the increase of faith, hope, and love.

A happy people are those that have good expectation. The Holy Spirit is doing such a marvelous work in the lives of God’s people today. By making the Word of God a reality to us, we are made a serious, very sincere people. We are made sober and yet sublimely serene. We are most happy when we are satisfied and yet ever seeking His highest and best. Thus we are made a gloriously happy people even in the face of serious suffering. See I Pet. 3:12-19 and 4:12-14.

“HE THAT HATH”

What (who) Do You Have? Those having something belonging to them personally, especially that which they consider most worthy, enjoyable, or beneficial, are usually considered happy. We believe that those things entered into by faith in God’s unerring

promises produces such. What have you laid hold of that's real, lasting, and cheers your heart? What has been given to you that you are appropriating and appreciating as your own? Is there anything that can afford you everlasting happiness? The best we can have is that which has us. We have redemption through His blood, and are glad we belong to Him. **"Happy art thou...who is like unto thee, O people saved by the LORD, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency! And thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places."** Deut. 33:29.

Why shouldn't we be happy enjoying God's salvation, with Him being the shield of our help, and the sword by which we may excel unto his glory and honour. Who could find greater deliverance, or better protection? We certainly have adversity. We often meet with great difficulty as we press on in the will of God. We never lack the enemies opposition that would try to rob us of the joy of our salvation. The accuser of the brethren is always on the job. But, Glory to God, with our foot dipped in oil, walking in the Spirit; and our shoes of iron and brass; (strength and judgment) and as our days so shall our strength be. We are thus enabled to trample the enemy under feet taking by faith our God-given high places. Rom. 16:20.

"THE GOD OF JACOB FOR HIS HELP"

By whom are we helped? This Psalm somewhat describes the God that we have for our help in verses six through ten. **"Which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: Which keepeth truth for ever: Which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. The LORD looseth the prisoners: The LORD openeth the eyes of the blind: the Lord raiseth them that**

are bowed down: the LORD loveth the righteous: The LORD preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down. The LORD shall reign for ever, even thy God O Zion, unto all generations. Praise ye the LORD."

What a God we have, that has put Himself at the disposal of our faith! Knowing and trusting ourselves unto Him, frees us unto a course of life without covetousness, and produces in us an attitude of contentment founded on what He has spoken in His precious Word. "For he has said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The LORD is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." Heb. 13:5-6. Our God has so richly provided for us that there truly need be no complaining in our streets. Ps. 144:14-15.

By way of contrast, verse three and four of our Psalm 146; indicates the necessity to avoid the course to certain unhappiness. **"Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish." Isa. 2:22; gives sound advise, "Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?"** consider well the contrast given in Jer. 17:5-7.

Oh yes, many grievous disappointments come our way when we put our hope in human help. These have, does, and will fail us. Misplaced expectations can really get us down, make us despondent and have us talking to ourselves. We do well to encourage ourselves in the Lord. We might say to our selves "Adjust your focus." "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted in me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise

him for the help of his countenance.” Ps. 42:5. There is much foolish teaching on self help today, and promoting self confidence. If God helps them that are able to help themselves; What can He do for the helpless? How about, **exceeding, abundantly, above, all we ask or think?**

“WHOSE HOPE IS IN THE lord”

In whom do you hope? All those who are fully trusting in Him, are to be cheerfully expectant of coming good. He gladly gives the greatest and the best even to pleasantly, presently anticipate. He cannot fail His promise. He also has given us wonderful examples and instruction in His Word on how to abound in hope. Of course we know that all God our Father has given us to expect is wrapped in the Lord Jesus Christ. The God of hope causes us to abound in hope through the power of the Holy Ghost, as we simply yieldingly believe. Rom. 15:13.



**My hope is built on nothing less
Then Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

**When darkness seems to hide His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.**

– Edward Mote

Romans 8

Continued (Vs. 14-28)

Earlene Davis

V. 14 – Walk in the Spirit[of God is proof we are born of God, that we are His sons. Walking in the Spirit also speaks of development into **full grown sons**. God sent His Spirit to teach us His Word and show us the way to have a victorious life in Christ. We learn to follow the Spirits leading. The Holy Spirit tells us all about our Lord – Jn. 16:13-15, “When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come, He shall **glorify me**: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said, I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you.” The more He reveals to us, the more we want to know Him that loves us so. And our love for Him deepens more and more. This is how the believer grows out of baby hood or from being carnal and self-willed.

V. 15 – The law only leads into bondage and fear, but the Spirit has brought us into sonship. By God’s **grace** He has made us His sons by the death of His Son; and it is His Spirit that conducts us into His presence without constraint. We come unto our heavenly Father, as His sons. V. 16 – Thank God for this witness, its not just a feeling, but is based on the Word of God. V. 17 – As children of God, we have a great inheritance. It is real and worth seeking. Some will get a greater, fuller reward than others. Some will have joint-heirship with Christ (If

we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified with Him). Not all believers appreciate their inheritance, nor desire it, because of the sacrifice.

V. 18 – When we get a glimpse of glory, the toils of this life seem nothing. II Cor. 4:17, “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory (there is no comparison). We look forward to that glorious day. All the glories in store for Christ can be ours, as we follow our guide and overcome the difficulties in the way He leads. The glory shall be revealed **IN** us. V. 19 – We not only wait for our blessings as sons of God, but for all creation’s deliverance.

Vs. 20–21 – The whole lower creation of which Adam was made the head, has been in confusion since Adam’s fall. Its unveiling is dependent on the manifestation of the sons of God. Man’s full redemption will free creation from the bondage of corruption and bring liberty. We have such a meager conception of the marvelous fact that we are the sons of God. We look at each other and we see the veil of the flesh. Just like men did when they looked upon Jesus as he walked among them. They did not see the Lord of glory in that humble guise. We also don’t see the Son of God, the true life as we look on the outward man. All creation is waiting for its true Lord. **THE SON**, with the sons of God. And all created intelligence in heaven and on earth and under the earth shall bow and marvel at the unveiling of the sons of God.

Vs. 22-23 – All creation groans and moans and sighs. And believers also look forward for deliverance in expectation. Our new man longs for his body of glory, which will have no infirmity. The Lord once gave me a

dream of this which I shall never forget. We won't look old, for He has said, "Behold, I make all things new" – Rev. 21:5. Vs. 24-25 – This statement "we are saved by hope" refers to the body. For we have not come into our redemption rights concerning the body. We are still waiting with patience for that new heavenly body. It is still future. If we already had our glorified bodies as some say, we would not be hoping for them.

We are in a body of limitations and infirmities, and we groan for deliverance and the Spirit like wise groans and prays effectually for the perfect will of God, though there maybe no utterance. We don't always pray what we should, but the Spirit over-rules and prays and prevails. We get the answer for what we should have asked if we had only known. It is marvelous how God undertakes for us in every way. God searches our hearts and sees the need for which the Spirit is making intercession and God's will comes to pass. V. 28 – No matter how things appear, the all things are working for our good in answer to the Spirit's groaning. Yet, this does not apply to every believer. It is true to those that love God and that are called according to His purpose.

Many of God's people love the world and the flesh more than they love God. So they do not surrender to God nor find their place in His perfect will. The all things are not working for them. Believers that put God first in their lives and yields to Him, do not complain when trials come, for they know and believe Rom. 8:28.

I pet. 4:12-13 , "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as through some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his

glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." And V. 19, "Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator."

To be continued



HIS LIFE HE GAVE

**Upon the rugged hill of Calvary
Our Savior died in pain and agony.
His blood He shed for all humanity;
His life He gave, my soul to save,
And He set me free.**

**He rose up from the grave in victory.
Our sins He cast into the deepest sea.
He gave as life, yes, life abundantly;
His life divine, this life is mine
For all eternity.**

**One day the trump of God shall sound for me.
For His great voice I'm waiting patiently.
He said, "Behold, I'm coming back for thee
To claim my bride; and by my side
Thou shalt ever be."**

– Vicky Moots

Think On These Things

Martha Wainright
Gladstone, Missouri

“The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace” Exodus 14:14.

The children of Israel must have been on cloud nine as we say, when the Lord finally loosed them to go into Canaan. They had witnessed a mighty battle between the Lord and Pharaoh, but the Lord proved victor. He always was, but He allowed Pharaoh to display his power that the power of God might show supremacy.

On and out went the children of Israel, but soon they came up against humanly immoveable barriers. The mountains, the Red Sea and the Egyptians, as Pharaoh had made one last attempt to stop them after contemplating his loss. When God led them out of Egypt He did not take them the short route which would seem the natural thing to do. God leads supernaturally, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD” Isa. 55:8. “God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent (change their minds), when they see war, and they return to Egypt” Ex. 13:17. “But God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red Sea” Ex. 13:18.

Exodus, chapter 13, goes on to record that the Lord went before them day and night. Ex. 14 tells us that the Lord

instructed them to encamp before Pi-hahiroth, evidently in a wilderness area by the sea. The Lord knew Pharaoh would gloat over the fact that they were entangled and shut in by the wilderness and the sea. And we read that Pharaoh and his multitudinous army pursued them. We can imagine that they were tasting victory with every hoof beat. "and when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them: and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD" Ex. 14:10.

The Lord instructs them, through Moses, to stand still and see the salvation of the Lord; that He would fight for them, and lead them forward when He gave the command. The Lord never left them, going before and behind them. His presence was darkness to the Egyptians, but light to the Israelites. We go on to read that the Lord miraculously parted the waters and the children of Israel walked through on dry ground to the other side. The Egyptians were totally destroyed, but not before they acknowledged that the Lord was fighting for the Israelites. After crossing into Canaan they were given redemption instructions. They were never to forget that their deliverance was from the by, the Lord.

Think on these things: many of us have taken our place, by faith, in the Heavens, symbolized by identifying with Jesus Christ in His death and resurrection. We now have a heavenly calling. Our vision is focused to attain all, that is our's in Christ Jesus. Nonetheless, in practical experience we oft times have these wilderness experiences. And if, by faith, our heart is right in the sight of God, we can believe that our all-wise, loving, Heavenly Father has led us to this wilderness. We sometimes wonder why we can't get out of a trial or a

circumstance, but “the Lord knows the way we take,” Perhaps what seems to best or shortest way to us might in reality be the most discouraging. The quickest and easiest, is not always the best.

The Red Sea and wilderness experience is the way that brings us to our knees crying out to God. Then His grace and power is made known to us and to others. There is no indication that the Israelites knew the Egyptians finally realized that God was fighting for them. And we do not, by any means, always know when others realize that God is on our side. (Thank God, lest we become puffed up.) I have heard of Christians saying, “send the trials, send the wilderness experiences and testings.” Lay it on me Lord, as the contemporary phrase implies. All we can say, is God be merciful when we say this, and I suppose most of us have said this in one way or another. But we need to realize and learn, that in God’s will, as we are yielding to Him and being led by the Holy Spirit, we will have these wilderness trials for our good and the glory of God. There is a time for everything. It is during these times that we learn to know the Lord as the Captain of our salvation. Our refuge, deliverer, fortress, etc. He is our all in all.

We get into trouble during our wilderness experiences when we try to fight our own battles. When we do this we usurp the Lord’s authority over us. “The lord will fight for you.” It is during these times that we lost our peace of mind and this opens the door to confusion and doubt. But as the old hymn goes, “Jesus know our every weakness.” He doesn’t leave us when we are weak and vulnerable. He doesn’t stomp us in the ground and berate us. Instead, He knows His strength in our behalf. He picks us up, reveals His grace and restores our peace with a

peace that passes understanding. The mighty wind of the Holy Spirit parts the waters and Sword (Word) of God destroys the enemy.

We may be hemmed in on all sides by such things as pain, discouragement, disappointment, doubts, battles of unbelief and distress. By these the enemy seeks to overthrow us and gain control. As we continue to trust the Lord we will see His working in us and we will come out victorious. Even if we feel the waters of the trial and think we are going to be defeated, Isa. 43:2 assures us, "When thou passes through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee." **Think on these things.**



HE LIVES

***I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today,
I know that he is living, whatever men may say;
I see his hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him, He's always near.***

***In all the world around me, I see His loving care,
Though my heart grows weary, I never despair;
I know He is leading, trough all the stormy blast,
The day of His appearing, will come at last.***

***Rejoice! O Christian, left up your voice and sing.
Eternal Hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The Hope of all who seek, the Help of all who find,
None other is so loving, so good and kind.***

– H. J. Aylwin

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