

His Comfort



Author, Balaam's Donkey



His Comfort

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Acknowledgments

First and foremost I must thank our loving creator God, for all the things He does. He is so good to me, and longs to fellowship with you. To all my family, and friends who have helped shape me, for He has placed each of you in my life for His purpose. To those who caused me grief, for even in this His plan was being fulfilled.

It all led me to that day when I would open my eyes and see Him.

To all the churches I visit, and all His children who allowed me to fellowship with them. To the teachers of His word, and all those who helped me, and are helping me on my journey with Him. To all the wonders He shows me that keep me in awe as a child, and allow me to see Him as a child would look at his father with love.

When I think of all those who I will later thank, you the reader, for if you again renew your relationship with Jesus, then all things are working as He would have them.

Father, in Jesus name I thank You for all You do, and all You will do, for even if we don't see Your perfect will, we trust in you. Amen

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Introduction

I am writing this to help those who lost focus on God, and allowed the troubles of the world to rob them of the joy, and peace He gave us. It's not to spoon feed you, or to make you feel good for a few moments, and then go back to the turmoil in your lives. It's to get you to see He cares, and maybe to get you to fire up your relationship again. He longs for your fellowship, and if you are honest with yourself, you long for it as well.

I've found that the quality of God in my life is depended on the quantity of fellowship I have with Him. He is always close, but do you listen to His voice, or do you allow the noise of the world to drown Him out? I love, and will always praise Him for what He's done, and doing in my life. Let Him work in you, won't you? I can make a complete mess of my life if I choose to take control, but when I let Him run things, I have nothing to fear. Isn't that what we all want? His hand upon things so we can enjoy Him, and all He's given us?

I am not seeking fame, for I don't desire to be anything but the bottom rung of the ladder. For in this I hope to lift others closer to God. I know who I am; I am the son of the King. But I only aspire to be a donkey such as Balaam's,

Numbers 22:28 *And the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?"*

To just be useful, to the One who loves me, for to seek to be great, only leads to a further fall. Just look at the Bible, about all those who obtained greatness, then fell. It's not that God removed Himself from them; they just allowed the world, and all it has to get at them. I choose Jesus first and just to serve Him. So as long as He wants to use me, I pray to be nothing more than a useful tool, such as Balaam's donkey. When you think about, a donkey carried our king. Maybe being such isn't a bad thing.

Father, in Jesus name I come to You, allow Your love, and grace flow to all who read this, and are searching You for Your peace. Grant comfort, and give them their hunger for You back. Draw us near, and quiet us, so that we may hear Your voice again. Forgive us for chasing after things to replace You and You become our all in all once more. We give You praise, and honor in Jesus name, Amen.



I have this picture over my fireplace, and get great comfort from it. I'm never afraid to get out of the boat; I'm the one in the water. Never afraid to get wet, knowing He is close. I hope for nothing more than that you get comfort out of reading this, but I hope God uses this to get your fire for Him started again, for I can't give you anything, but God can grant you comfort and peace. So, get out of the boat, and trust Him.

Matthew 10:28 *"Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."*

Philippians 1:21 *For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

Philippians 1:22 *But if {I am} to live {on} in the flesh, this {will mean} fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose.*

Philippians 1:23 *But I am hard-pressed from both {directions,} having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for {that} is very much better;*

May all His peace be with you. When we trust Him, what worries do we really have, especially if we know this to be true?

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Chapter 1 The Bird House

Matthew 6:25 *"For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, {as to} what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, {as to} what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Matthew 6:26 "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and {yet} your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? Matthew 6:27 "And who of you by being worried can add a {single} hour to his life? Matthew 6:28 "And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, Matthew 6:29 yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. Matthew 6:30 "But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is {alive} today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, {will He} not much more {clothe} you? You of little faith! Matthew 6:31 "Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' Matthew 6:32 "For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. Matthew 6:33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Matthew 6:34 "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*



On a warm spring day, I was sitting on my balcony and saw the birds fluttering in the trees behind my apartment. So I decided to purchase a bird house for my balcony. I had no clue as to the wonders God had in store for me. I've always liked sitting on the balcony watching the simple wonders of His. Well, I hung the house without hopes, but just because, or should I say, incase.



As the days passed, I continued to go to my balcony, to sit, and enjoy His peace. I'd look over at the bird house to see if any activity was going on. For about a month, the house sat unoccupied. I went to the balcony, to escape the trappings of the world, and business of everyday life. One day, upon my awakening, I glanced at the birdhouse, and to my amazement, twigs were sticking out of the opening.



I'd sit in my chair, and watch and nothing would happen. I'd come inside, and when they thought it safe, two small birds continued building their nest. I smiled as they built, for they eventually got use to my presence. I could sit out on the balcony, and watch them. It was so amazing to watch these two small birds build without any plans, but which God had given them.



I often asked God, how they knew what to do. The answer was as clear,

as the dry morning air of a gentle summer's day. In His perfect will, we all know what to do. After the twigs were twisted together, they began to bring soft material, to line the twigs. This whole process of the building of the nest, took about 10 days. I was in awe to watch these two small creatures build a place for new life to spring forth.



At this time I purchased a dish for water, and feed for them. It was a cat dish, with two openings. One I filled with bird feed, and the other side with water. They didn't eat much of the feed, but occasionally would drink, and splash in the water. Other birds did find the feed worth while, and ate a good deal. I would love to hear, these two, chirp so joyously. As the time went on, their singing changed. It went from a joyous song, to a matter of fact song. The tone and length changed, although you could still hear the love. One morning, I went out to drink my coffee, and to talk to God, I heard small faint chirps coming from within the house. These two precious creatures young had come forth.

My work keeps me away for a day, or two at time. I didn't get to watch them constantly, although, when I did come home, I was treated in such a way. They were continuously bringing bugs to the hungry mouths awaiting them at the opening. These two had their work cut out for them, feeding three young and very hungry baby birds. In the rain, the wind, till dusk they would scurry, hunting and returning with food. In the light of the dawn, they started all over again.



I didn't realize it at the time, but the change in tone of the parents singing, was for the young's benefit... I pondered the change but it wasn't until later would I know the meaning of it. The parent birds were making sure the young would know where mom and dad were when they left the nest. For while they were in the nest, they got what they needed. They did not yet know how to seek food. So they needed to be able to find their parents when they left the nest, to learn to find food. God is awesome, and He lets nothing to chance. Ever,

The young would come to the opening of the house often. Even with me sitting there watching, mom, and dad would come, and feed. They grew use to me, and knew I was no threat. It was so neat to watch God's creatures grow. The feathers were growing, and the parents couldn't even get in the birdhouse any longer. For the young knew when the parents came, and would crowd the opening. I can't say for sure, but it appeared that one was getting more food than the others, but all three grew. I think one was a little greedy. But it worked out, for no one seemed to suffer.



My daughter had come for a visit, and I was returning her home. This trip took a day, and a half to take her back home. I couldn't wait to see the young birds as I knew they had grown, and it wouldn't be long till they left the nest. I have never seen a young bird leave the nest, and was hopeful to see these take to flight. This was going to be different. I returned home, and two of the young had already left. It was quiet in the birdhouse, and I thought I'd missed it.

I was looking out my balcony door, and I heard the mom, and dad calling from the trees in the distance. Their song was direct, and with purpose. They were calling the last young out of the nest. I watched with stillness, as the last one came out the opening. It looked around as to see its parents, but could not. The song from the trees grew more impatient, and louder. It was then; the last bird took to flight. Its first flight was only 20 feet of so, and with some clumsiness. The second flight was direct, and a little surer, straight to the sound that had lured it out of the nest. It was at that very second, the one when it took to flight, it knew what it had been created for. To fly. God again, created perfection.



I went to the balcony again today, as I do everyday; I heard the birds in the trees, singing, and flying. I know the young are safe, and being taught by their parents how to find food. I was showed two lessons by God in watching these tiny creatures. God's will is perfect, and when we are still, we can see His mighty hand upon everything. He told us about how much more valuable our life is then that of the birds. Yet, we become so frazzled by things, and concerns of the world, we tend to forget He is still in control. He knows you, and every thought, trouble, and desire of your heart, since before time was. Look at the birds. In them, we can see Him. Peace,



The next time you feel as though the world is against you, remember, God is for you, and He is in the process of molding you, for His perfect will. As the bird to fly, search, and ask Him for His will for you. For I know it's grand. I put another bird house on my balcony; I'm just waiting for spring, to see what precious things God has in store for me. Be blessed.

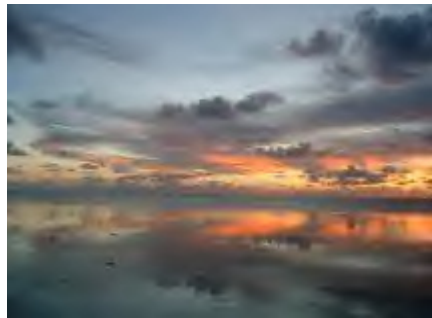
His Comfort

Chapter 2 Sunrises, and Sunsets

Gen 1:31 *God saw all that He had made, **and behold, it was very good.** And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.*



As each morning opens, a new painting covers the canvas we call the sky. It's a new start, replacing the old, and refreshing the stale, and still of night. In each new dawn, there is a chance for greatness to shine, for it is in our choices we make, that make the day. Sure some days will be more trying than others, and then some will be filled with rain. As each day passes, we get the newness of a dawn.



We get up each day with the hope of good, and detours of the day sidetrack us, and rob us of our joy. If we could only recall the artist's Name who painted each picture in the sky. Then we'd know without a doubt, He remains in control. Morning is so precious, the still rustles into noise, and the light invades the space of darkness. We can either joyfully sing a song of praise, or march to the dirge of dreariness. I'll sing for joy, for the dawn brings forth the sun. The Son is also near, even when the darkness seems to drag on into the dawn.

Matthew 16:2 *But He replied to them, "When it is evening, you say, '{It will be} fair weather, for the sky is red.'* Matthew 16:3 *"And in the morning, '{There will be} a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot {discern} the signs of the times?"*



So if by the sky we can discern the weather, why can we not by the same sky, keep our faith? Look around at the beauty; realize the love that it took to create it. If He gives so great a detail to such things as sunrises, and sunsets, then don't you think you even more He is giving great guidance, and love? I get up in the morning, and watch the sun come up, and give thanks to the Son for the beauty of it all. If it's cloudy, and I don't get to see the sunrise, nor set, I am still thankful, for even the clouds and rain must come for the beauty of the ground to come forth.



As the day progresses, and the troubles come, and go again, we have another days dawn to look forward to. As the sun was created for light, and warmth, so the day was created to let us see Him in all we see. For it is by Him, and through Him all things are held together. Even you.

John 1:3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men



Just as the detail it took to create the ice crystals to form this halo, all the more detail, He puts forth in us. Just look around, and see what you're missing. Our God is good, and full of love, and compassion towards us. Everyday He has something new to show us in this journey, and sometimes the world gets in the way of our seeing it. He is the light that people see, not just in the sunshine, but in His children. It is because of Him, we have light..



Even if such a picture as this, the simplicity, and complexity of His love can shine forth. An elementary drawing of the ball of fire in the sky, yet with an expression of His love. (Can you see him smile?) Tomorrow as you get up, take a few moments to see His paint brush upon the sky, and see what He created for you.

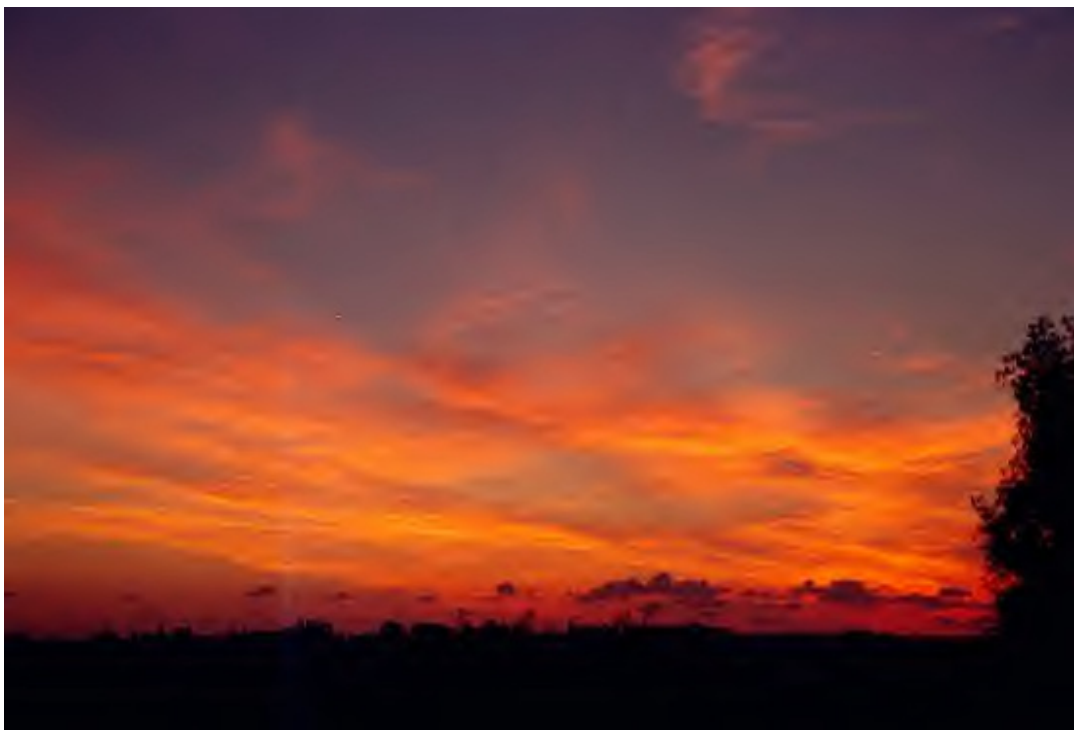
If this day was hard, and you get to see the setting of the sun, take a moment to do this, for it can be just as delightful. It's a changing of a page if you will; ending what maybe was a troubled day, bringing with it the hope of a great one tomorrow.



As the sun will set, it's as though He's covering us up in a warm blanket. Tucking us in, and telling us, it's going to be okay, for this day has come to a close, and a chance for a great one comes at dawn. He gave us life to live, and light to see, and rest He gives us daily. It's the little things we seem to miss. The warmth of His hugs, the patient hand He guides us with, and the splendor of every new day. He did it for us, you, and me, to enjoy, not just hurrying through it as a nickel piece of candy.



Did you see the sunset He prepared for you today? Will you see the sunrise tomorrow? Take a minute, and watch what He has for you today. For the artist who created all this beauty is the author of life, and He already has your life written out. So slow down, and know He remains in control, of the sun, of the earth, and of you, and me, if we can be still and listen. I'm can't speak for you, but my life always is easier when I leave the control in His hands.



Now that the sun has set, look at the stars, for they to were created for you. As night sets in, and the chatter of day quiets, be still, and know that even now, He is preparing a great day for you tomorrow, and it will start with a beautiful sunrise.
Peace, and be well.

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Chapter 3 Ripples



John 13:13 *"You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for {so} I am. John 13:14 "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. John 13:15 "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.*

As Jesus was the splash that gave us salvation, should we not be a continuation of the ripples? His life gave us the life we now live. In peace, and harmony with one another. He is the spring of everlasting water which nourishes us. If we try to bottle it up, no water flows, and it becomes stagnant. When we let His water of life flow through us we are replenished by the spring of never ending water.

Have you ever received a hug, or an unexpected gift? This would be a great example or a ripple in action. May His love and life be given to those who may not know Him. It's a smile received; it's a good word, or compliment. I promise you this, when you give these things away, you will be blessed by Him. For if it is Him who

refills you, what better place to be refilled, then at His rest.



The ripples will continue, until they become an overwhelming wave, till it hit's an immovable wall. But wait, what can stop the love of God, but our unwillingness to pass it along?



So, if He's was the splash that started all, so long ago, this should have become a tsunami by now. His love through His children should be covering the earth. Will we allow Him in us to move in this way, instead of bottling up His love, at the risk of becoming stagnant? It's Him who will accomplish this. I know how we can get caught up in doing well, but our actions are worthless, unless, He is the power behind it.



Ezekiel 47:1 Then he brought me back to the door of the house; and behold, water was

flowing from under the threshold of the house toward the east, for the house faced east. And the water was flowing down from under, from the right side of the house, from south of the altar. Ezekiel 47:2 He brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate by way of {the gate} that faces east. And behold, water was trickling from the south side. Ezekiel 47:3 When the man went out toward the east with a line in his hand, he measured a thousand cubits, and he led me through the water, water {reaching} the ankles. Ezekiel 47:4 Again he measured a thousand and led me through the water, water {reaching} the knees. Again he measured a thousand and led me through {the water,} water {reaching} the loins. Ezekiel 47:5 Again he measured a thousand; {and it was} a river that I could not ford, for the water had risen, {enough} water to swim in, a river that could not be forded. Ezekiel 47:6 He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen {this?}" Then he brought me back to the bank of the river. Ezekiel 47:7 Now when I had returned, behold, on the bank of the river there {were} very many trees on the one side and on the other. Ezekiel 47:8 Then he said to me, "These waters go out toward the eastern region and go down into the Arabah; then they go toward the sea, being made to flow into the sea, and the waters {of the sea} become fresh.

(and again)

Revelation 22:1 Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb,

Exodus 17:6 "Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.



All these references are about Jesus, the one who quenches us, the one of whom if we drink, we will never thirst again. I know of my thirst for Him, and how I can't get enough, and, no matter how much of me I give to another, He refills all the more.



The more you let Him flow through you, the more of Him the world sees. It's incredible that He knew the how to accomplish this, before we ever were. He is the gentle splash that turned into the never ending river, which empties into the ocean of eternity. Will you let Him empty himself through you, so that the lost may see?



There is a mighty tide moving about, and we are called to be part of it. He reached into us, and saved us with His love. Won't you allow others to come along, to become part of His family, and ours? I know we don't save any, but in us they may see His light, and be called to Him. We can keep what He gave us to ourselves, or give it away, and be filled with Him, again, and again, and again. Better to be flowing living water, then to be a bottle filled on a shelf, for you can't fill a bottle sealed. Can you?

I know you've heard the term, go commit a random act of kindness. Don't do it to get noticed by man, but allow Him to do it through you, and in this brighten someone's day, for in this they in turn will make somebody else's day brighter, hence, the ripples roll on.

The only thing I was called to do is to be extension of Him. If they remember me, then I'm not sure they saw Him, but if they saw Him, then He does live in me. May it always be.

Father, in Jesus name we come before You, just to give You thanks, for the things done,

and the things You are doing in us. We ask that You finish the work started in us, so that You may be glorified. Your will be done. In Jesus name, Amen.

John 4:14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."



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Chapter 4 Butterflies, and Hummingbirds

Ever wonder how something so small and fragile can survive a strong summer storm? But they do, if you've ever noticed, after a thunderstorm, the butterfly comes back from its hiding place.



We have all heard the story about the struggle of the caterpillar coming from the cocoon. How the struggle makes it strong and its coming forth pushes the blood to its wings. If we were to try to help it by opening the cocoon it would not live. Something so small and delicate comes to being, by God's loving hand.



When the storm approaches, God hides the butterfly, from the damaging winds, and heavy rain, and even hail. Don't you think He's capable of doing the same for you? I do. Many storms of life come our way, and He is always so close, directing us which way to go. Sometimes we just don't hear Him.



Luke 8:22 *Now on one of {those} days Jesus and His disciples got into a boat, and He said to them, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they launched out. Luke 8:23 But as they were sailing along He fell asleep; and a fierce gale of wind descended*

on the lake, and they {began} to be swamped and to be in danger. Luke 8:24 They came to Jesus and woke Him up, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And He got up and rebuked the wind and the surging waves, and they stopped, and it became calm. Luke 8:25 And He said to them, "Where is your faith?" They were fearful and amazed, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him?"

So if He calmed the storm, then don't you think He is still able, and if not quieting the storm, can't He give you refuge from it, as He does the tiny butterfly? When spring comes again, and you look at the butterflies, doing butterfly things, watch the storms come, and pass, and see if the butterfly returns again. I know they will. Ever touched their wings? Did the butterfly survive? You know what I'm speaking of, how fragile they are. Yet God protects them. Amazing, isn't it? Not really, if you know Him who protects, and guides you.

Luke 12:24 *"Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and {yet} God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds!*
Luke 12:25 *"And which of you by worrying can add a {single} hour to his life's span?"*

One summer's afternoon I was watching a storm brew in the west, the lightning was crashing in the distance, and thunder echoed all around. I noticed the storm was about on top of me, when I noticed a hummingbird at a tree, collecting nectar.



Ever notice how they never rest. Wow the energy they have. Anyway, back to this wonderful event. The storm had closed around on three sides, and the lightning, and thunder, and rain was fast on its way. This small hummingbird showed no sign of worry, or fear.



If even the humming bird showed no sign of being intimidated by the storm, why do we so often feel defeated? All you have to do is look at His creation and know, He will not let you down. He is a mighty God, He is a caring God, and He remains in control. The verse I like best to really bring this out is this,

Matthew 10:28 *"Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.* Matthew 10:29 *"Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And {yet} not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.* Matthew 10:30 *"But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.* Matthew 10:31 *"So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.*

I know I'm speaking of hummingbirds, but do you see? If God is in control, why are we so filled with worry? Peace and His joy are what we should be filled with. As I was saying, the storm was almost upon us, I turned to come back inside, but one last look at this tiny bird showed me, that at the time he knew, he flew for cover. As the butterfly, and the hummingbird, if God can preserve these tiny creatures, and He counts you so much more valuable, don't you think He can protect you?

When we worry, are we showing our trust in Him, or are we relying on

self? If self, then we need to get out of the way, and let God be God, and we need to be His children.

As I write this, even now I have birds at the feed I put out. I hope I never loose sight of the little things He shows me, for it them I can see His hand and love on all things. I want you to know how much He cares for you. His hand remains upon you, even if you don't feel it. Look around, do the flowers come up year after year? Do the birds return? Does the sun come up day after day? When these things stop, we'll be with Him. So be at peace, and know He is close.



He is so wonderful, so what happened to our innocence? As children we go to Him, yet we continue to allow the worldly things concern us. Why? If we didn't worry, would anything change? No, but it seems we think that by worrying we are in fact doing something, and we are, putting aside our peace, and joy He gave us. Pay closer attention to the little things. He is in them.



There are many lessons we can learn from watching the everyday things. All His creation has something to reveal to us. I pray we take time to notice, and to give thanks to the creator of it all. When you think about it, the only thing we have to stress, or worry about, is not being with Him. Apart from that, nothing can rob us from the things He gives us, but ourselves. Ponder it, and stop robbing yourself of the very things He wanted so much for us to have. Peace that surpasses all understanding.



May the God who created all this beauty, and protects the fragile, be with you this day as you seek all His glory in the small things. Peace,

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Chapter 5 Rainbows



Genesis 9:13 *I set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth.*

Genesis 9:14 *"It shall come about, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow will be seen in the cloud,*

Genesis 9:15 *and I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh.*

Genesis 9:16 *"When the bow is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."*

Does the covenant hold? Or do we think He forgot and has left us all alone. We have storms, and they pass, but when you think about all His promises, why are we so frazzled about everyday life? Why do we let it get to us?

Luke 12:28 *"But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is {alive} today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more {will He clothe} you? You men of little faith!"*



I know many times in my life, I saw storms come, and go, yet He never let go of me.

1John 2:28 *Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.*

He promised us life, why are we so downtrodden, and defeated? I have felt His mercy, and grace many times when I doubt. I guess in this I have learned to always depend on Him, and not myself. For He is good, and loving. If the only thing I have to lose is this world then am I not better off losing it? To be with Him, as Paul desired, but not until His time do I seek to go home.



Ever see a double rainbow? I've heard some say it's of the devil, and I chuckle, for God gave us all things good. I seen many rainbows, and am always reminded of His promises.

1Kings 8:56 *"Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised; not one word has failed of all His good promise, which He promised through Moses His servant.*



Luke 24:49 *"And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."*

What does this mean, are we alone, or is He dwelling in us? He lives in me, and if you are His, then in you as well. He alone takes my pain, and worry, and gives me His joy, and peace in place of. It's not what I do, but what He is doing.



He will never leave nor forsake us. For can He break a promise? Can He lie? No, He is a God of His word, and will be there in every circumstance. We sometimes don't hear Him because we let the world take the place of Him. Is He enough for you, or do you think you have to solve the crises? I'd rather leave it to His attention, for I will only make it bigger.

Psalms 77:8 *Has His lovingkindness ceased forever? Has {His} promise come to an end forever?*

Deuteronomy 31:6 *"Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you."*

Joshua 1:5 *"No man will {be able to} stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you."*

So, is this true or just words in a book to you? I value this, for His truth is life. We try so hard to walk this life on our own, and that's why we keep falling. If we

would only let go, and let God, we would be so much better off.



Look at this picture, His promise being poured upon the earth, and look
at the tree,
I know it's not the tree of life, Jesus, but think of it as such. He didn't break that promise,
so He won't break the promise to you either.

Not sure what you're going through right now, but you can trust He
does, and like the child with the broken toy, take it to Him who can fix it. As long as you
keep hold of it, He can't help. In the small things we can reap much comfort, remember
Elijah? He sought to hear from God. It wasn't in the thunder, earthquake,

1Kings19:11 *So He said, "Go forth and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And
behold, the LORD was passing by! And a great and strong wind was rending the
mountains and breaking in pieces the rocks before the LORD; {but} the LORD {was} not*

in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, {but} the LORD {was} not in the earthquake.

1Kings 19:12 After the earthquake a fire, {but} the LORD {was} not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing.

1Kings 19:13 When Elijah heard {it,} he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. And behold, a voice {came} to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

Stop looking for the big things, for when you do you miss Him in everything.

Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Matthew 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

I am with you always, even to the end of the age. What does this mean? Does it mean just when things are splendid, or does it mean always? Jesus is great, for He's never left me, or let me down. For this I am ever thankful, and will offer Him my praises. What about you? Do you believe these things He says?



May His promises be manifested in you, as they are in me. Peace

His Comfort

Chapter 6 The Winding Road



Matthew 7:14 *"For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it."*

(KJ) Because strait [is] the gate, and narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Strait: Not straight, our journey is a trip down the road with Jesus, and all too many think it's a smooth road. It can be, even with all its twists, and turns.

1Samuel 6:12 *And the cows took the straight way in the direction of Beth-shemesh; they went along the highway, lowing as they went, and did not turn aside to the right or to the left. And the lords of the Philistines followed them to the border of Beth-shemesh.*

They did not stray from the way, they turned not to the right, nor left, as we should not. The road as in this picture is still a road. Imagine running of such a road.

What tragedy this would be. If we remain on the road with Christ, we will not have anything we can not handle, for He is with us. To me, this journey is grand, for around every turn, He has something new in store for me. Even when I think hard, He makes easy, and exciting. For with Him, we have no trouble, He handles it all.



This is the sign we need to watch for, for to turn off the way, would be disastrous. For we may be tempted to turn, but He says stay on the road to life. A good thought to put in here, even if we make a turn, He is there to guide us back. Not sure about you, but that even makes me want to praise Him. Remember the story about the one out of the ninety nine? Did He go after the lost one? I love our God.



He gives us plenty of warning signs. He is ever present, nudging us the right way, if we can only be still, and listen. How many of you got lost, and had to turn back? I guess we all have at one time or another. It's okay, for He is awaiting you. He knew you'd go before you even went, and when you'd return.

Psalm 139:1 *O LORD, You have searched me and known {me.}* Psalm 139:2 *You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar.* Psalm 139:3 *You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.* Psalm 139:4 *Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all.* Psalm 139:5 *You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.* Psalm 139:6 *{Such} knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is {too} high, I cannot attain to it.* Psalm 139:7 *Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?* Psalm 139:8 *If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.* Psalm 139:9 *If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, Psalm 139:10 Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me.* Psalm 139:11 *If I say, "Surely the darkness will*

overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night," Psalm 139:12 Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike {to You.} Psalm 139:13 For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. Psalm 139:14 I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well. Psalm 139:15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, {And} skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; Psalm 139:16 Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained {for me,} When as yet there was not one of them. Psalm 139:17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Psalm 139:18 If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand. When I awake, I am still with You. Psalm 139:19 O that You would slay the wicked, O God; Depart from me, therefore, men of bloodshed. Psalm 139:20 For they speak against You wickedly, And Your enemies take {Your name} in vain. Psalm 139:21 Do I not hate those who hate You, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? Psalm 139:22 I hate them with the utmost hatred; They have become my enemies. Psalm 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; Psalm 139:24 And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.

This is my favorite Psalm, He knew me before I ever was. Can't you get comfort from this? If you're asking why can't I get it? Maybe because you're not listening to the signs He has placed before you. He is always pointing us in the correct direction. So if you feel your road is winding, it's okay. He is right beside you. If He lives in you, let Him steer, in this you'll never get lost, or go astray.

Isaiah 11:16 And there will be a highway from Assyria For the remnant of His people who will be left, Just as there was for Israel In the day that they came up out of the land of Egypt.



Not to be confused for a that way directional sign, but the one way, is through Jesus, and in Him we are certain of the way. We are on the highway that leads to heaven, for we are already in His kingdom, we entered when we accepted Him. So why so don't we act as though? He lives, and He lives in us, get excited, praise Him, and let the world know you are a sojourner here.

The road you are on is paved with His blood, poured out for you, how many times must He do this? He did it once, that's enough for past and future blunders, so if the road you're on says,



Make your U turn, or better yet, allow Him to steer you back. He wants to be in control, let Him. We have nothing to fear on the road with Him, falling rock, mudslides, flooded roads will not prevail. Nothing here can separate us from Him, yet so many walk as if they are lost, and out of control. I relinquish all control to the One who can handle it all.

For He foreknew it all. Trust Him to take you along this journey we call life, but in reality we still have to experience life. For in heaven I'm sure we will get to see, if we remember, what foolish things we let get to us.

John 14:6 *Jesus *said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*

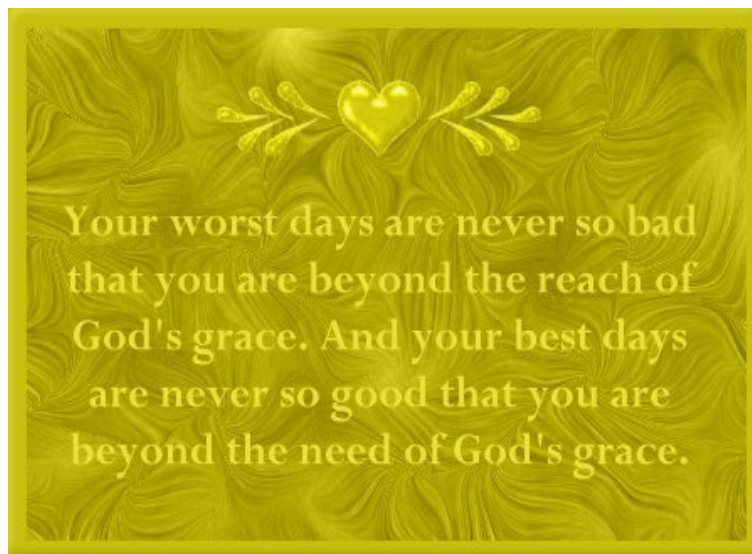
If He dwells with us, and in us, as He promised to do, and you're still lost, or feel so, cry out to Him, He'll come get you, and bring you back.

Luke 15:4 *"What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?*

If a man will do this, how much better will our Father do this? Don't stay off the road, let Him bring you back. I'm enjoying life with Him, knowing no matter how many twist, and turns, He remains with me. Even if I get to wanting to be in control, He'll allow me for a while, and then bring me back. It is all Him doing, for me to find that place, for if I try to seek it, I stay lost. Give Him you completely, you will not be sorry.



Is this what you want a rough road to roam on? I don't. I will allow Him to lead, and I'll be content to follow. He knows the way of which I should be going and far be it for me to get lost again. I guess what I'll sum up here is to say, the road you're on may seem foggy, distant from home, but He already knows where He's leading you. If you're in Him and Him in you, it's okay. Trust Him. All the turns in the world won't confuse Him, for most He created to get us where He wants us, close to Him.



This is a sign we all need. Stay close, and keep talking, for you can never talk His ear off. You'll feel better, and the road won't be so lonely. Then listen. You may be surprised what He has to say. Don't let the road of life get you down, get up with Him on the road He wants you on. You'll see the street may be narrow, but there's plenty of room for you, and Jesus. Be well.

His Comfort

Chapter 7 The Car



I once bought a car such as this, it wasn't in this shape, though it wasn't junk either. I promise not to make this a technical story. It is however what He showed me in this car that moved me. I had such great expectations. It ran, and had low mileage for the year; I had a classic that I would fix up. Oops, did I have my priorities mixed up, or what?



The car ran but wasn't road worthy, it needed work and I was going to do. I had it towed to my house. To start with I changed the brakes, for a car that wouldn't stop wouldn't be any good. Then the power steering line sprung forth fluid like a busted water hose. I tuned, and changed all the fluids, and lights. (That was a task) I got it to a point of drivability, but it still needed work. The paint job was fair, and vinyl top torn, and inside had mold. Every time I got in and drove, I had to take a shower, for the stench was upon me, and in my clothes, and hair. I guess at this time I got it inspected, and tagged, and insured so I could drive it.

The rest of the work would wait, for more monies to come in. While I drove it, and tinkered with it, God was teaching me. As He always does, if we listen. As the car, He brings us to Him in our present condition, knowing full well, the work He will do in us. Unlike me, He is patient enough to do the work He starts. For He knows the cost.

As with the brakes on the car, He gives us the ability to stop, to keep from getting involved in an accident. As with the power steering, He gives us the ability

to steer from the things that are bad for us. He does this by placing the Holy Spirit in us. He gives us tune ups if you will, in the time we spend with Him. I guess I'm going to make a huge leap here. Stay with me. . .

The interior of the car became the problem, not that it was torn up, or even dirty. It's just that the mold was in everything, and would get on you in just two seconds. It was bad. The reason I bring this up, is simply this, although the outside seemed in good shape, it ran well, the problem was on the inside. The jump here is, it is the same with people, we seem to have it all together on the outside, but the condition on the inside is what stinks. Jesus stated it well:

Matthew 23:27 *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness."*

But please let me further explain, I'm not talking about those who walk the walk, and talk the talk, but are using Him to abuse people, (just trust God to keep you from such). I'm talking about those of you, who on the outside appear together, yet on the inside are full of turmoil. Jesus can help you. Unlike the car where getting a new inside would have fixed the problem, God can give you His peace, and restore your joy, if only you cry out to Him.

Do you realize God sees you as you are looking through a window, right through the exterior, to the inside? He knows your troubles, and struggles, and can help. You can not hide from Him. I like to know He sees my motives, my heart, and the struggles, and that He also will straighten them up. In this I have such peace.



Is this you, a nice looking car, whose inside is shattered?

Matthew 11:28 *"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you*

rest.

Do you believe He can do this, or are they just words? I know He can, He's done it for me so many times. I could go into great detail about what He did for me, but, it's all about Him, and what He wants for you. He wants you to have His peace, and is willing to give it to you, now.

Now I'm going to throw you a curve ball, do you look at others for the outside appearance? Do you miss the person God is making them? I know how easy it is to think someone with no exterior flaws is good on the inside as well. The one who isn't pretty, or thin, or well dressed, is just as loved by God as you, and maybe if you got past the outside, you'd see the Jesus in them. I recall Jesus teaching us not to show partiality to people of substance.

James 2:1 *My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with {an attitude of} personal favoritism.*

James 2:2 *For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes,*

James 2:3 *and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool,"*

James 2:4 *have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?*

For none of us would want to be viewed in this way. If I seem a bit scattered in this chapter, it's because I have so much I want to say, but would rather He say it to you. For He wants to help you in your walk. I just want to do what He wants of me so, are you a car with no flaws, or are you a dinged, and faded car with the heart of Jesus, or a shiny new rod, with the interior of the Pharisees? He knows, and He can help you. For when we come to give it all to Him, He restores us from the inside out.



Isn't that a pretty car? I mean for the age. I'm going to try to sum up my thoughts here, and stop pulling you this way, and that.

John 14:27 *"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."*

We are not perfect; it's only Him in us that is perfect. We become perfect when we get our glorified bodies in heaven. Yet we try to put on fronts to conceal our inside, or we try to judge others by their appearances, and miss the gift He has for us, in His children. We can be such a blessing to each other, and we should be. So if you're troubled inside, give it to Him, He already knows, and is waiting for you. One sure thing I know about His nature, He will not over ride your will to hold onto something. He will let you struggle. Are you holding on to something making your inside moldy? Is the stink wrecking your relationship with Him or others around you? He can fix it, and wants to.



Is this you, or have you begun to let the master repairman restore you? The only reason you have to carry around the stuff inside is because you choose to deal with it yourself. So to let go of the junk we carry around, and to give it to God, who enables us to be a light in a dark world. In this we glorify God, and bring light to those

searching. Remember that He sees through to your heart, and can see the pain, and junk, so get rid of the stench of the mold that robs you of joy. You know what's so amazing about this, it's that He does all the work, all you have to do is let go.

Acts 9:34 Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; get up and make your bed." Immediately he got up.

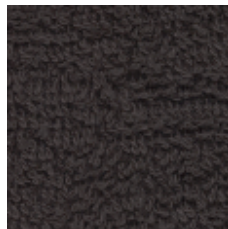
Did you catch the reference, Jesus Christ heals you. So why do we try to do this ourselves? It's so wonderful to know that He takes the brokenness and makes me whole. You can try as much as you want, and in doing so, hold back His healing. I keep making a redundant theme here, as well as the other chapters, it's all Him. Trust Him, and know Him and all things of here will slowly fade from becoming troublesome. Is this not what we seek?



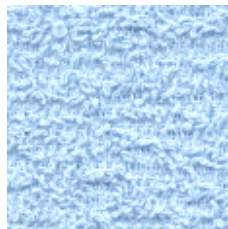
We all know this picture, about God's hand reaching to Adam, but He's also reaching out to you as well. Take hold, and allow His touch, and care to make you whole. In this He is glorified. Be well.

His Comfort

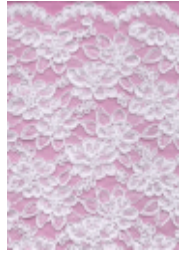
Chapter 8 The Quilt



Do you sometimes think you life is stuck in the browns, and blacks of the fabric of life? Ever wonder why you can't get into some bright and pretty colors? You will, for in your life, if you have given it over to the sewer of all, He will use all the facets of your life. You may not see the big picture yet, but trust Him; He knows what He's doing. We have a wonderful God; He has created all, even the earth tone colors we seem to get stuck in.



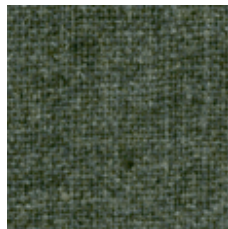
You will see some brightness of color, and even some wonderful glimpses into the finished product, but not until you get home, will you see what He's been able to do with all the fabric you've been at work upon. I know that periods of time in my life, it seems as though I've been to long in trouble, or in the black, gray colors of life. Yet I keep faith He knows what is going on, and I pray He will use it all for His glory.



I'm not sure about you, but this is the where I would like to be. In the happy colors, with lace, and frills. When all life makes sense and peace abounds. I never think there is enough time spent here. But in Him I receive comfort, and I don't have to understand it, for I know it's Him who is in control, so in this I still have my joy, and peace. Don't let the gray get you down, for He is still with you, even in the midst of gloom.

Psalm 139:11 *If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night,"* Psalm 139:12 *Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike {to You.}*

This is a good thing to remember, that although we feel the darkness enclose us, and to Him it isn't dark at all. So know He knows what He is doing with you. He has a plan, even beyond the one that saved you. For every move has purpose, and if we can accept this, we will never lose our joy, or peace.



Even when it seems we spend too much time in this, He sees it as just a piece of the fabric of His great plan. He is good, and loving, and will never leave you. His promises are sealed in you by His son Jesus. As I'm writing this, I'm reminded of how many times I've screamed out to Him, and asked what are You doing. The answer is the same today, as always; trust Me, for I love you. My attitude changes then, and it is almost as though the color scheme changes.

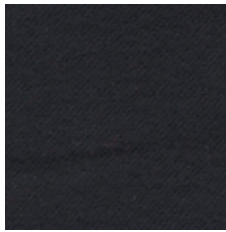


Now that's a place we'd all like to spend more time, isn't it? We will, it's not my promise, but His.

Romans 8:35 *Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

Even if, where you are right now seems low, and bleak, remember, if you've given it over to Him, He will use it to be glorified. Isn't that what we should be doing, glorifying the One who saved us from death? I say yes. This is in fact exactly what we should be doing. I know it's easy to focus on the place we are, and forget about the Who we belong. Where's the trust in this? His grace will be sufficient for you even there. I remember Paul crying out, and the answer was the same.

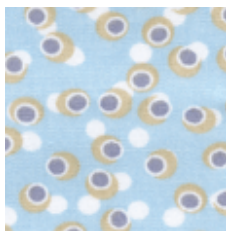
2Corinthians 12:9 *And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.*



So I ask, is His grace sufficient for you, or do you need more? If you think I've got it all together you are mistaken, the only thing together about me is Him. I have peace, knowing He is the one in control, for I've given it all over to Him. It took some time to get it, I'd fight, argue, and try to do things under my own power, then He taught me about His wisdom, and that, that is what I should be searching. Remember when He said:

Isaiah 55:8 *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD.* Isaiah 55:9 *"For {as} the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.*

If we seek to understand with our limited minds, we'll miss His purpose. When we trust what He's doing, we have peace. Even if, and when we can't see past the point of time where we are.



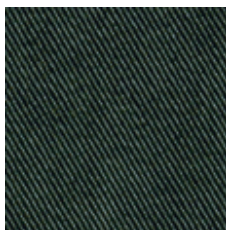
Isn't this a change from where you just were? You see, when our attitudes change, we see things differently. He remains in control of all who trust Him, and His purpose is the same, joy, peace, and gladness to all. So focus on Him, for isn't that what it's suppose to be about? We stepped into His kingdom when He came to dwell in us, yet we so often act as the world does. I get confused by this, though I understand. I use to be the same, but with time with the Master, He showed me how all things were under His control. Even the bad.

Job 2:3 The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him to ruin him without cause."

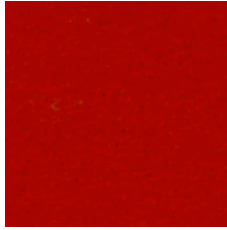
Even satan could not harm Job without Gods permission. He thinks the same of you. I'm not saying all the darkness is caused by anything other then circumstances we sometimes allow, but He still knew about it before time. If He knows it all, and allows it, then search His purpose.



The color will change, with the more we let go, and give it over, and trust Him with. Try it, you will be pleasantly surprised. I can promise you this. For he did it in me. The master quilter is at work, and knows the outcome of the project He started so long ago. So if you feel trapped in black,



Or are going through a period of grand colors, bright and full, such as,



Remember He is still in control, and will show you a grand picture when we get to be with Him, in heaven. In this I am sure. All the browns, and dark colors can not keep His love from me, no matter what I do, I trust Him, and He is close. Give it over to God, and allow whatever you do be to His glory. In this you will regain your peace and the troubles of world will not hold you captive.

Imagine if a picture only had pastels, pinks, and blues. Could a picture be made? Or is a picture made with all colors, earth tones included. Even if you're not sure that where you are, is where God wants you, trust Him to move you. That's the important thing, giving all dominion of you life over to Him, so that he can fix what is broke. I know it's hard to give it all away, but don't you think He can do a better job than you? I know He can then myself, He's proven it to me time, and time again. In this I learn. But as with most, I am slow learner. He loves you, and the magnificent quilt He is working on will knock your socks off.

So, don't get discouraged, you belong to Him, and He's never let go, nor lost anything which belonged to Him. I can't wait to see the quilt. For I know all the browns, and some of the blacks, were being stitched in my life to help create this quilt. If you can, take a moment, imagine, every action you do, is adding to this quilt.

Romans 8:28 *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to {His} purpose.*



Just trust Him, and know He will never leave you alone, no matter what color you seem to working on at the present.

Father, in Jesus name I ask, that You would grant them peace, and let them know You are close, no matter where they are. Teach us to give it all over to You. We give thanks for Your mercy, and that You would use us. Be glorified so the world will see You in us, so that they may be drawn to You. In Jesus name, Amen.



You see, you just never know what the big picture is going to look like. Enjoy the work He's doing, for He's using you, which means, He's close to you. Peace.

His Comfort

Chapter 9 The Potter

Isaiah 64:8 *But now, O LORD, You are our Father, We are the clay, and You our potter;
And all of us are the work of Your hand.*



If He is indeed the potter, and we the clay that is being formed, why do we complain so much? Do we not like what He is making us into? I am, I am so glad He takes the time to mold me into what may become something useful, to glorify Him. It never ceases to amaze me that some want to become so great, and yet I am happy being a tile on the floor, if that's where He'd have me.



This may look pretty, but is useful for drinking only, where as the tile upon the floor, would carry the weight of all those coming to visit. You see it's all in the perspective. It takes a great deal of heat to bake clay. To make it useful, and sometimes it hurts. I can assure you it isn't anything you can't handle if God's doing the work. I long to be a vessel that honors Him, as a tile, that would be used daily, as He roams to, and fro. Wouldn't that be grand? I think so.

Romans 9:21 *Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use? Rom 9:22 What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? Rom 9:23 And {He did so} to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory,*



If you belong to Him then you are well received, whether it be for honor, or for everyday use.



If He has His hands upon you forming you, then consider it joy. For those who He cares not for, do not feel His touch, or molding. Imagine being nothing but a fork, being used two, maybe three times a day, then being tossed in a drawer someplace, awaiting the next time you're used. Take your pick, which would you like to be? Some are made for showing off, such as a fine vase, to arrange a beautiful assortment of flowers. To be honest, the flowers get the glory. It's okay, aspire greatness, but be satisfied with what He makes you. If you truly want His peace.



Just remember, the clay doesn't have the right to yell at the potter, I mean it's His game, and if He so wanted, could toss out a rebellious lump. He is always working the clay getting it useful for His purpose. I'm trying to get you to see, that no matter what He's doing in your life, He is doing something, which means it's a hands on thing. Isn't that exciting?



Okay, this is me, at least for now; it's all I aspire to be. In this small flooring tile, I've been given the ability to raise someone closer to our King, if it be by transporting via this tile, or raising someone a quarter of an inch higher. May the dirt of your feet be upon me, and not our King. Reminds me of the verse about Him washing the feet of His twelve.

John 13:5 *Then He *poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.*



I picture something like this being used. To some this wouldn't be considered much to be, but when you think about it, Jesus held you in His hands, and used it to clean those nearest Him. As He still does with His precious life given for us. Wow. That's all I can say. I bet some of you think my view is pretty simplistic, and it may be, by world's standards. I don't seek to be measured by the world's standards, only His is good enough. I will praise Him for caring, and I like the hands on approach. May His hand gently mold you into what He so chooses, for honor, for usage, for nobility, or whatever, and I hope you find peace in.



So, this is what you want to be, to be set upon a shelf, and shown off all the time. What happens if you fall from the shelf? All your beauty crashes into shards of brokenness. If it's about Him, and His work in your life, then we are not ashamed to be whatever He forms us into. For all He touches, is beautiful. Have you given your life over to Him, so that He may be seen in you, or do you hang on to self, wanting Him to do it your way? I would rather be a lump of clay being stored up for another day, to be used by Him, then to be something so wonderful now, and not to be handled, for fear of breaking.

A lump of clay being formed is the best thing to be, for you will be ever changing, without breaking. We all seek God's hand evident in our lives, but seem when He leads, we put up such a struggle. We are an odd lot.



So here we are, wet and ready for molding, crying out for attention, then it starts, the

pulling, spinning, and shaping. We say again, it hurts, stop, in spite of ourselves He continues the work started. For He leaves nothing unfinished.

Philippians 1:6 *{For I am} confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*



So the work is being completed, and all you had to do is say yes to Him. He is making you into a wonderful creation, being delicately, perfected by the Master. Just let go, and trust Him. For He has never made a mistake. When you just completely let go, and allow His work in you to continue, you'll know His love.



May you all be handled gently, and be molded into something beautiful. May the Masters touch be a wonderful thing. May you trust Him to mold you, into His likeness, and that He be glorified in you. Even when it feels as though you're being twisted inside out, He is there. Know this, and know His peace in all. Bless you.

His Comfort

Chapter 10 His Love

I've been thinking about this chapter for while, and all the scripture I can use to back this up, how showing His everlasting love for us with His word, it could fill this entire chapter, and then ten trillion other books. I then realized if you're reading this, then you're not spending time with Him, so you still might not get it. So, what do I do? Do you believe He loves you, or is it just some far away concept that has been drilled into you that makes you feel good? Can you feel His love? It's real, it's not some far off thing you just get glimpses of, it's a burning inside, that you know He's near, and carefully guiding every step you take.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

We all know this verse, but what does it mean to you? Some I'm sure have heard this story, so forgive me if I bore you.

In a country far away, an illness spread through the land, infecting all but one, a baby. The king of the land asked that the baby be brought to the doctors to be examined. After the doctors had finished the work, they reported to the king. The king then went to the parents of this child, and explained the situation. The king said that the baby's blood could save the people of the country. The parents were excited, and asked, how much do you need? When the king said all would be required, the parents became saddened. It was their only child.

What would you have done? God sent forth His son for just this purpose. It was a gift He gave to you. He never said you would be required to pay anything, or to make yourself pure before accepting. In fact in accepting you become clean, and renewed.

Every morning when you get up and hear a bird chirp, or see the sun rise, or get hugged by your child, it's an expression of His love towards you. Sometimes we just get so busy, we miss them. We let the world, and its worries snuff out the love of our great God. I was writing the other day, and I wept. I wasn't sure what was happening, and then I heard a small voice, "why did they stop listening to me?" All I could do is ask that I never stop hearing His voice. That is why I am writing this. I will not make money on it, or even get fame, for my name will be kept off this book. It's His love through me trying to point you back towards Him. He loves you that much. So these little slices of His love revealed to me, I pass on to you.



If that wasn't a prime picture of His love, then I'm not sure what is. The sun rising over the Grand Canyon, with a rainbow in the midst. Not only His beauty revealed, but also His promises. How did we get to where we are? Why does it take so little to separate us from a relationship with Him?



This bird, his song is meant for our listening enjoyment. When's the last time you sat, and listened to a gentle bird sing? They are all around, and yet like God, we tend to miss them. I'm going to share a story of God's unfailing love in my own life.

I was 40 when I accepted His gift, and it wasn't by man. I was a man who was facing Christmas, with three children, and money was tight. Other issues were creeping in as well, contempt, guilt, worries of the world. For I was always in control,

and could handle anything that came my way or so I thought. Little did I know how wrong I was. Well, it all came to a head one night as I was readying for work, I was a mental mess. With all my being, in an instant, I yelled, and blamed God for all **my** failures. What happened next scared me. I saw and heard the beast who said “you’re mine.” then he was gone, but in that same second, if you will, I felt His hand upon my right shoulder, drawing me towards Him, and peace filled me. A gentle voice whispered, you don’t belong to him yet, you’re Mine. To some it may seem odd, but He could have struck me down then, but choose to spare me. I’ve never looked back and continue to run towards the one who loves me more than I can explain.

I’m not trying to be scattered brained here, but so much is to be said, but I’m trying to keep my words few. For it remains all about Him. Here is a wonderful example of His love towards each of us.

Luke 15:11 *And He said, "A man had two sons. Luke 15:12 "The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them. Luke 15:13 "And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living. Luke 15:14 "Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished. Luke 15:15 "So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. Luke 15:16 "And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving {anything} to him. Luke 15:17 "But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! Luke 15:18 'I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; Luke 15:19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men." Luke 15:20 "So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion {for him,} and ran and embraced him and kissed him. Luke 15:21 "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' Luke 15:22 "But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; Luke 15:23 and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; Luke 15:24 for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate. Luke 15:25 "Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. Luke 15:26 "And he summoned one of the servants and {began} inquiring what these things could be. Luke 15:27 "And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has received him back safe and sound.' Luke 15:28 "But he became angry and was not willing to go in; and his father came out and {began} pleading with him. Luke 15:29 "But he answered and said to his father, 'Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours; and {yet} you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends; Luke 15:30 but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.' Luke 15:31 "And he said to him, 'Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours.*

Luke 15:32 *'But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and {has begun} to live, and {was} lost and has been found.'* "

He is waiting for you to come back, to fellowship, for that is why He created you. Anyone worry about stuff? You know stuff, the kind of things that don't pertain to the big picture, but for the moment. Money, job, worries about who likes you, and doesn't? Ever see a bird worry? I know, how could you tell if they did? They are provided for; trust me, as God seeks to provide for us, He does for the tiniest birds. That is love, for Him to keep each one of our hairs numbered. Can you grasp the fact that he knows you so well, that He planned your ways before time? Yet we want to do things our way, and become consumed by the world.

If I could touch you upon your shoulder, and give you what He's been so gracious to give me, I would, but He wants to give this to you.

1Peter 2:9 *But ye [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: (KJ)*

1Peter 2:9 *But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR {God's} OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*

Are we yet this, or have we succumbed to the world? In everything you see, you can see His love for you, for He gave it entirely for you. If this isn't love than what should I call it? He longs for you to call upon Him. This is over simplified but try this, a best friend with whom you lost all contact with; wouldn't you yearn for that friendship back?



In all we see, smell, taste and feel, such as the warmth of the sun, the fresh air after a summer rain, the smell of fresh cut grass, the leaves as they change color, and even the first snow of the season, a child's first step. In all these things, God is showing you His love. Why would we turn from Him? I was forty when I found Him, and may I never leave His presence.

*Revelation 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him **who loves** us and released us from our sins by His blood-*

In Him, through Him for Him I am, for without Him, I am nothing. May you always be seeking His face, and His love be the stronghold in your lives. I wrote this to those who have a relationship with our King, and somewhere along the journey got sidetracked. He's calling you back. May you find Him, not in these pages, but in fellowship with Him, for may this just be a sign post pointing you back towards Him. Go spend time with Him. Give Him praise for all He has done, and for all he will do for you, and through you.

I seek for some words that would just reach out and grab you, but none come but what He whispered to me the other day.

“When did they stop listening to me?”

What can I add to these words. There are some who still hear His voice, but this was written for those who can't because of the world's noise. All I can say, if you want the chatter of the world to go away, replace it with Him.



Father, in Jesus name I give You praise for allowing me to write this, may You receive the glory, and may Your children turn their ears towards You again. May I never be but a stepping stone for those wanting to draw nearer to You. I offer You thanks, and will bless Your name. You are the author of all, and maker of me, may I and all those reading this, always hear the voice of Your love. Thank You, Amen.

Pick up the phone call your Father, He wants to talk, and His line is never busy.



His love will guide you from harms way.

His Comfort

Chapter 11 The Hawk

It has been a while since I have added anything to this book, but as you all know, He is always speaking, if we are quiet to listen.

I recall years ago while driving in New York state, I saw a big bird fall (or that's what I thought) to the ground. I thought someone had shot it at first, and found this odd, for I was driving along the interstate. Further down the road I saw this happen again, not know what was going on, except big birds were falling from the sky. I saw later that day, the majestic hawk, on the ground, with its prey in its talons and it was eating. An awesome sight to behold, such as this, to see a creature of God's doing what it was created for.



As these creatures smack into the ground, they do so with a great deal of force, they are descending upon their prey so as to not miss it. It must knock them into a semi conscious state for a time, but they shake it off, and get up and do as they do, enjoy their dinner. But, look at us for a moment if you will, we are to soar, and with Him we do.

Isaiah 40:31 Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up {with} wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.



I know I use the example of the hawk, but they are close cousins to the eagle, so please stay with me. When however we get ourselves into sin, we are not soaring but rather in that semi conscious state which holds us down. This is not what God seeks for us; He paid the price for us back at the cross, if we are willing to accept this, for now, and forever. He died for every sin we could commit. I give you some text so that you may build yourself up, and realize that you can get up, and should. Stop listening to the devil, who would keep you down, and feeling condemned.

Psalm 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

*John 1:29 The next day he *saw Jesus coming to him and *said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

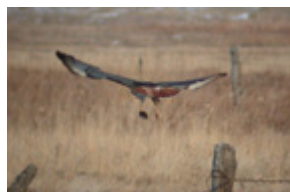
1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Even Paul struggled with this, for didn't he say, the very thing I hate I do, and the thing I would want to do I do not? He knew that it was not him, but the sin in him that did these things, and yet he helped the church grow. So, are you done feeling sorrow for yourself, enough so to shake the cobwebs from your head, and get back up and soar?



We are funny creatures, for we buy into the lie; rather than listen to the One who gave us our lives, and freedom. Stop listening to satan, and get up, He is so awesome, and loving, and wants you to come along side Him. I too have known this struggle, and do not intend to give into it. For as He intended, I will soar, and to you who can't seem to get out of the dirt, that we sometimes allow to cover us, remove the source of the dirt, for Jesus said, it's better to loose part of your body, and enter Heaven (the object that makes you stumble) then to enter Hades whole.

Get up, fly with me, and all His children, tell the little imp he is a liar, and you will follow hard after the truth of God. Peace, and have I told you I love you. Get up, and fly with me.



His Comfort

Chapter 12 The Snake

As you will recall at the beginning of this book, I told you of the birdhouse, and the wonder God showed me in it. Well, I once more put out a house, and the birds came, and made a home, had young and fed them diligently, but this time I learned a different lesson.

This time, they did get to fly to the trees, in fact they never got to leave the house, and the adult birds met the same fate. One night I went out on my balcony, and I saw something odd at the bird house, it was dark, but I was curious, so I walked closer. I had to come back in to turn the light on, and a black snake was slithering into the opening.



To say the least I was upset, but by the time I could do anything, the snake was completely in the birdhouse, and no sound came forth. It had eaten the two big and all small birds inside. As bad as I felt there was nothing I could do, for the snake was doing what it does, seeks out food, and eats. I was pretty amazed that it could have got to the third floor though. The snake has been with us since time began, and since Genesis has been tormenting God's children.

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'"

But God had an answer for it back then, as He does now. The serpent has been defeated, and you are free, but beware, for just because you are in His mighty grasp, the serpent can still devour your joy, and peace, and all the good in your life, if you allow. But take hope in this.....

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between

thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

And at the cross, this was more than accomplished. Jesus was lifted up to draw all men to Himself, and rose from even death, so that even it has no power over His children. As I said though, as with these birds, even though the snake was doing what it was designed for, as with the devil, that is his whole purpose. He can not snatch you from the hand of God, but if you believe him, he can rob you of your joy, and peace, and make your life miserable. Take heed, and give Jesus praise, for all is well, and no one, nothing, can undo the victory we have in Him.



So, as the promise God made, know that his days are few, but in them he will try to convince you that you are not worthy of the love Jesus loves you with, he may even try to tell you, that you are not God's but do not believe this. For I know there is nothing stronger than God, as to break the seal which He placed upon us.

Father, give us strength to overcome all the obstacles that would come our way. Show us Your mighty power, and love You have for us, and let not this world, or anything in it take me away from You. It is close to You we seek to stay, so I ask that You remove all things that would hinder the relationship I seek with you. You alone is what I seek, in the Holy name of Your son Jesus I come before You, Amen.

Appendage

These are after thoughts for those of you as myself, who don't like big titles. I gave a copy of this book to a Chaplin whom I've known for a while, to get his comments. He suggested I try to tell you the how I got to where I am, through these revelations in this book. I've been thinking about this. And know I can't give you what

God seeks to give you. I can try to explain the what in the stories, such as, in the birdhouse story, the gentle chirp of the bird's song, and how it changed. It's as when God calls after us, and when we come to a place of acceptance His voice changes, it's still loving, but with intention, to keep us out of trouble. Or in the car, it wasn't just a vehicle to get from point a to b, but a vehicle God used to teach me something. If you can grasp this, you can grasp the concept of this book. I'm not the teacher, pastors are for such, but God seeks to tell you about Himself, if only you spend time with Him.

I feel the need to share a snapshot of His love He showed me today. It exemplified who I am, since I often refer to myself as a knucklehead. (But I am His knucklehead.) Out on my balcony as I have told you, I have bird food, and a birdhouse for spring's arrival. Two rather large and awkward birds came to check things out, and a dove was eating, so they walked around to the bird house. Well, one of these birds stuck its head into the birdhouse opening. These birds are about as big as the dove, and the opening to the house is for a finch, or some other small bird. It repeated doing this two or three times, then jumped on the top and looked behind the house, trying to figure out how to gain access. All I could do was laugh; for once again He showed me His love. He loves us all so much, and all He is asking, is that we spend some time with Him. In this we will find, He will meet our every need. Be well, peace.



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That's a morning dove, but as you can see, there is no way he is going into that hole. I often refer to myself as a knucklehead, and I go before Him and tell Him about it. Then He replies, yes, but you are my knucklehead. It's Christmas 2004 and 7 years ago this week I came to know our great and loving God. May He bless you all as much as He blesses me.

It is finished, the last words upon the cross, just grasp His promise, of always being near. Amen

