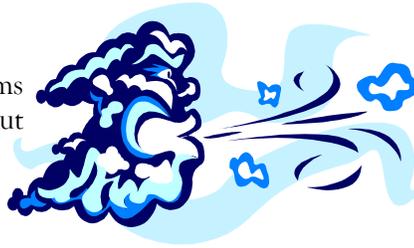


First Light Herald

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Storms Come

I'm 53 this year and that means I've seen a few storms in my life. I must say the only thing that I like about storms is when they end. The Lord once said, "In this world you will have tribulation." I don't like those words, but I am glad he said them. I would really be a mess if I didn't know storms were coming. I can imagine when God told Noah, "It's going to rain." Noah had never seen rain. Imagine how confusing it must have been to build an ark for a flood when you'd never seen one!!! If I'm headed for trouble I like some sort of warning. I can prepare for it. We are told to prepare for storms. We're told to "Put on the full armor of God." You don't need armor unless you've got a battle coming your way.



I only quoted part of what Yeshua/Jesus said. He finished his admonition by saying, "...but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world." I have struggled with these words. Why should I be cheerful just because you have overcome the world? I have serious questions for the Lord. He's my commanding officer as well as my brother and I hold him responsible for me because of it. He has been sharing how vital it is to know who I am and what I have available "IN HIM". I've had to stop and research just what being "IN HIM" is all about. I actually have a text file on my cell phone with many verses that have the words, "in him, in Christ and in whom" in them. I've been meditating on them slowly, but surely. I have righteousness IN HIM and that's a biggy. When the condemner shows up I remind myself (and him) that all my righteousness is based on Yeshua's life and his holiness. I'm bound to mess up and sin simply because I am draped in fallen flesh and my mind is BEING renewed and not flaw free (YET).

Here is another sentence I don't like, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous". Now that you've read it I know you're as thrilled about those words as I am. Again, I've omitted the "rest of the story". The phrase continues, "But the Lord delivers him out of them all." Because Yeshua/Jesus is my righteousness and the righteous sacrifice I can see myself "IN HIM" here. In Yeshua/Jesus I am delivered from whatever affliction the enemy or life sends my way.

One of the ways the enemy has held the Body of Christ in bondage is through ignorance of what the word says. Even when we read it we miss a great deal due to translation issues. That is why it is of paramount importance that we be filled with the Holy Spirit and able to pray in the spirit or in tongues. Our finite minds HAVE to be renewed to

In Christ we have and we are

- Galatians 6:15
- Ephesians 1:4-8
- Ephesians 1:11
- 2 Corinthians 1:10
- Ephesians 1:13-14
- Acts 10:43
- Romans 15:12
- Acts 17:28
- Colossians 2:3
- Colossians 2:7-13
- 1 John 2:5-10
- 1 John 2:27-28
- Romans 3:24
- Romans 8:39
- Romans 12:5
- 1 Corinthians 1:2
- 1 Corinthians 1:30
- Romans 4:17-25
- 1 Timothy 1:14
- 1 John 5:11
- Romans 8:35-39



Storms Come.....continued

the will of God in order for us to have the “mind of Christ”. Finding the will of God takes more than the average 15 minute devotional allows. You have to really get with the Lord long enough to actually dump the world that is pressing on your shoulders. We live in perilous times and that means we need more time with God and not less than those who lived before us. You have to be part of the Body of Christ that fasts, prays, studies and obeys what GOD is telling you in order to have the types of success that we see the early disciples and apostles had. So many believe they can leave all the fasting and praying up to the “leadership”. If I remember Esther’s story, she had the whole nation of Israel fasting and praying for her prior to going before the king. She didn’t endeavor to face the world alone. She understood just how much she needed her people to “be on the same page” with God as she was. She had the whole nation fasting for three days. I highly doubt many of us have ever made it a meal or a day let alone three days. All through the old testament we hear the leadership calling fasts for the people.



I can see all sorts of storms ahead. I’m fairly sure the rest of you who actually read this see those storms as well. It’s not time to panic or run for the hills. It is time to get serious about our Christianity and what we do with our time and resources. We don't want to be guilty of storing up goods to consume them on our lusts or passions. We don't want to be guilty of spending our time on worldly diversions and busy-ness. We want to be hearing God’s voice on how to deal with the impending storms.

*“Come buy
without
money”.*

As one who God has called to “herald” things I exhort you to purchase a notebook. Get out your Strong’s Concordance and look up the following: in him, in whom, in Christ. You are in him, you are in whom and you are in Christ. These things will help you deal wisely with the days ahead. You won’t be moved at the evil tidings on the so called, “news”. You won’t be taken in by all the greedy and covetous fools who exhort you store up gold for the troubled times. We’re told in Isaiah we can “come buy without money”, but the average Joe and Josephine hasn’t a clue how to do this. In Christ you know how to do this. Study to show yourself approved. Do you know who you are in Christ? By the way. Christ isn’t Jesus’ last name it means something. Do you know what it means?



Winter Blues With Silver Lined Clouds!

When the bitter cold of winter has us locked safely indoors, it also keeps us indoors and what starts out as a cozy warm feeling soon closes in and can become an uncomfortable sensation. Feelings are part of our humanity, but allowing feelings to take over control can be dangerous. If we take the time to look at negative things when we are away from their influences we can allow God to show us ways of handling them and dominating them. I like the ability to stomp on things that try to take me captive. I appreciate a Father who prepares us for victory and not defeat.

One of the best ways to defeat the blues or the “blue funks” as I call them is to enter into praise. We’re told, “Put on the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness”. This is a fool proof way to defeat negative feelings, BUT you have to recognize the feeling to deal with it. Most times we create our own negative environment by one particular line

Silver Lining.....continued

of thought. Thoughts focused on ourselves can create an environment charged with heavy and depressing influences. We are NEVER alone, but when we focus on ourselves we can actually convince our souls that we are lonely and alone. Every human on the planet has a guardian angel. The angel of the Lord camps around those who fear or revere the Lord. The Holy Spirit seals us unto the day of redemption and infills those who ask for it. We are NEVER alone. In fact we're really surrounded by a crowd of unseen angels.



Winter can be a time of rest and recuperation or it can be a time full of sadness, despair and grief. Our son died the week before Christmas and I could make that week miserable if I chose to. I'm not ever camping on that doorstep. The joy of the Lord is our strength. He isn't joyful when we aren't trusting His word, so we need the joy that emanates from Him.

Counting your blessings is a good way to chase sad and depressing thoughts from your mind. Doing something for someone, even praying for someone else can bring healing to you. Get you off your mind and you'll find that you have fewer blue days and you'll walk with silver lined clouds everywhere you go.

New Life



Zeal is a great thing. Zeal is an inner fire that charges you up and causes you to march into the battle guns blaring. Zeal is normally associated with youth. Maturity is normally associated with experience and wisdom, but rarely with zeal. Experience can make one hesitate. Experience may utter these words, "Once bitten twice shy." Zeal says, "Hey we're young and nothing can stop us." Experience says, "You need to know your variables and limitations." Zeal says, "To the moon with variables and limitations, we're strong and virile." Experience says, "You'll learn." How can these two ever walk hand and hand? Experience must hold onto zeal or else it becomes stagnant, dormant and eventually dead. Zeal must hold onto experience otherwise it becomes off balance, fool hearty and wild.

I've seen the new believer receive answers to prayers almost immediately. It seems unfair, but experience also knows that the filter gets finer and God requires more of a mature son than of a young babe.

We're told to "stir up the gift that was given to us." I hear these words and remind myself of the miracles and answers I received when I was young in faith. Today I press into diligence, tenacity, wisdom, long suffering, patience and NOT leaning to the arm of the flesh. I also look for young and fresh believers to keep that spark of zeal fired up in my soul. I do not want to grow old and bitter. I do not want to forget the lessons of childhood else I may be required to learn them again. "He satisfies my mouth with good so my youth is renewed like the eagles." That is my heart's desire.

Psalms 103

1 Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: 3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; 4 Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; 5 **Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.** 6 The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.