

A String of Pearls



The Proverbial Woman

January 2013/5773



In The Works

I've begun a new aspect of my ministry. It made perfect sense as I've entered this stage in my life, but it had to be a work of faith. I wouldn't just create something for the sake of self or just to be doing something. What I am talking about is "Widow's Might". Widow's Might is a fledgling ministry to widows here in the Permian Basin. I discovered there was very little focused ministry to widows in the church at large. I knew this years ago, but hoped it had changed once I joined the ranks of widowhood. Who better to minister to widows than someone walking the path?

My father used to tell us about the logo on the side of the cement trucks in California, "Find a need and fill it." I also remember several wise pastors mentioning that if you're the one who sees a need, God is usually calling you to fill it. Thus I have begun this new phase in my life and ministry.

I began by posting notices in the local post office and also contacting widows I have met in the past 15 months. I also have other widows helping me collect names. One saves the Odessa American obituaries and I go hunting for names and numbers and send out an introductory letter. I have yet to hear from anyone via the letters, but I know that so soon after losing ones spouse the mind is pretty fogged. Hopefully given time and perhaps a follow up letter that will change. Also I know how suspicious I was after Jeff went home when a stranger offered, "help". You have to overcome a great deal of fear during those first few months.

I've also contacted a local attorney that helped me shortly after Jeff died. She has agreed to meet and said she was interested in helping me in this new ministry. I look forward to joining forces with her to help women with the legal aspects of widowhood. I had friends schedule a meeting with this attorney after Jeff went home to heaven. Oddly my sister went along with me to this meeting, but I have absolutely no memory of her presence at the big table we sat around. Such is the odyssey of the widow.

There are a thousand ideas running through my head, but I want what God wants and look forward to a group meeting where we can discuss needs and wants. I covet your prayers as I step out in faith and continue to reach out to these special ladies. I have discovered by talking to other widows that there are a multitude of experiences and stages in widowhood and each one has its distinct voids that need filled. Having walked through just a fraction of these things I know how needy one can be during

Special points of interest:

- In the midst of complete chaos and darkness God looked out and put His plan into action by saying, "Light be". He had a plan to deal with the mess the adversary had made of things. He has a plan for you as well, but you need to get with Him and find out what it is. Even if you only have one second of breath left, one second in His will is better than NONE!
- Don't look back, you're not going that direction. Keep your eyes on the prize! Heaven is the goal, but getting God's light here on earth is the plan.
- Resist doubt, fear and worry like they were rattlesnakes coming in your front door. Get out your spiritual shotguns and wipe em out. Say, "I refuse to doubt, I refuse to fear, I refuse to worry in Yeshua's name! God has not given me a spirit of fear but a Spirit giving me power, love and a sound mind." Do it until they leave. They will leave.

In The Works.....continued

this sensitive time of life.

I remember the day my friend Nellie took me to the cemetery to make arrangements for Jeff's home going that I looked over all the graves and realized, "I'm not the first woman to walk these steps and I surely won't be the last". I've come a million miles since then, but I'm pretty sure I have as many left to walk. I'd rather walk it with someone else who knows what I'm going through, and help someone else who is just taking her first steps.

If you have ideas please share them, or if you know of a widow (anywhere in the US) please let me know who she is. If she's been widowed a long time she has much to share and may still have unmet needs. If she's new she definitely needs compassion and someone to talk to.

It's funny how you can reach someone and touch his/her heart and be totally oblivious to it. I had a young man (a friend of Jeff's) help me fix the skirting on my mobile home so I could sell it. He refused to take money and told me he had seen my notice to the widows posted on the bulletin board in the post office. I was surprised he was interested in helping in ministry. The gal who manages the mobile home park volunteered herself and her homeschooled son should I get "meals on wheels" going in Gardendale. Folks want to be a part of real ministry and I'm blessed to have so many awesome friends.

Again, do keep this all in your prayers. God calls to us to do His will, and if we pass certain tests, He chooses and equips, and then He sends. I'm hoping to pass the tests, be chosen and equipped to do this marvelous work. I've always had a heart for widows, but now with a whole lot more understanding.

I'm also working on a couple of books. I ask for your prayers as I do research work for both. Each book has a separate purpose and audience, but both are Bible based and very important for folks in the days ahead. Vantrice Burkes and I are still anticipating getting her book finalized and printed.

I'm establishing a new routine in my life so that I can keep on top of the ever-growing list of responsibilities I shoulder. I am still connected with the Russian gals, but also teaching some young men as well. (Something I never anticipated). I haven't stopped working on learning Russian and perfecting my Spanish, but have also added Chinese to my language list. Making time and scheduling time to do these is a priority. Both of these works need God's focus and direction so please add them to your prayers for me.

Unity Of The Faith

The apostle Paul had a difficult job, and one that is still in the works. I am speaking of the unity of the brethren, the goyim and the yahudim. I don't see it coming to complete fruition until the Lord Messiah Yeshua/Jesus returns. That doesn't mean we should simply skip by all that this humongous job entails.

Let me define the terms goyim and yahudim. These are Hebrew words and in our western thinking they mean very little. Goyim simply means "the nations" whereas "yahudim" means "saints" or



Unity Of The Faith.....continued



the holy ones in the tribe of Yahudah/Judah. We have lost so much because we don't understand that over and over again Paul speaks of two groups when he was addressing the believers of his time in his letters. We need to see the distinction that he was making between these two groups. We need to learn to dissect the word or "rightly divide" the word.

In the letter to the Romans he addresses ONLY the saints. Christians have a tendency because of wrong teaching to include themselves in this group. This isn't to say that they aren't part of the Body of Messiah or aren't going to heaven, but if you understand that Paul knew that those of his own background understood things from the word that those from the nations had never heard of, you get a clearer understanding. He could speak one way to the "yahudim" or saints that would be a foreign tongue and thought to those who came out of the then pagan world. He called those who came out of the pagan world former aliens and strangers to the covenant, he also called them "uncircumcised".

In the letter to Corinthians he addresses the letter to the saints (yahudim) and to all that call upon the name of Yeshua/Jesus hamashiach/the Messiah. There are tiny indicators that he is speaking to two groups and that he is working to meld them into one. He knows that in Yeshua/Jesus they are already one, but in their understanding and cultural backgrounds they are worlds apart. Again, what a job he had!

Let us hunt for these tiny indicators in his writings. First he uses pronouns such as theirs and ours. Theirs speaks to the goyim, the nations. Ours addresses his own people, the "Hebrew believers". All through his writings we see a man who begins to teach his own in the synagogues. With each effort we see the adversary following him and working behind the scene by shooting fiery arrows of division and strife. We see some of his own (Hebrew believers in Yeshua) believing and others stubbornly refusing to accept the truths he sets before them. We also see in each place where his own don't accept him that Paul eventually goes to the goyim (the nations) with the message of the gospel. They then become "the faithful in Messiah Yeshua/Jesus the Christ".

He works to make clear to them just what God has done in His Son. He makes sure to minister the baptism (or immersion) in the Holy Spirit, knowing that if the Holy Spirit has full control of these people's lives they will receive understanding that will help them resist the lust of the flesh and walk in holiness. We need to remember that Paul was far away from many of the congregations that he ministered to. Several (such as Philemon) had home groups because they weren't allowed in the synagogues. The saints or yahudim (we know them as Jews) were extricated from their synagogues for believing in Yeshua as Messiah. The goyim were only allowed in the "outer court" of the Temple that stood in Jerusalem at his time. The goyim were normally referred to as either pigs and dogs if they were following anyone but the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. After converting to Judaism they were called, "God fearers" by the Jews, but once the Lord came and made his sacrifice it was no longer necessary for them to "convert" as they were accepted in HIM!

Yeshua tore down the middle wall of partition between the lost in both groups, but though the work of righteousness was completed by the Lord it had to be received and walked out by both groups. Unity in the spirit will always be a work of death, death to self. God's will is the only will that can or shall ultimately be accomplished and brought to fruition. To resist His will is basically fruitless and vain. His will is that we all come in the unity of the faith, His faith. We are all members or cells in the Body of the Anointed One and in His Anointing of God.

Yeshua was God's son manifested to destroy the works of the adversary. The work began as Yeshua formed Adam of the clay of the earth and breathed into him the breath of life or Spirit of God. He breathed into man His very essence, God in man, unified and one! This work was/is an awesome work that continues even today!

Selah!

Perfect Work Of Patience



I don't know how many times I've told myself I am going to rejoice when I am praying for an answer *before* I see the answer. I usually say this after the answer manifests and I feel embarrassed for having doubted God's faithfulness to answer my prayers. I say, "next time", but here I am once again seeing the answer manifested and embarrassed for doubting once again that God would answer. I am so thankful He is so long suffering as I learn the lessons of faith and faithfulness.

Though I make mistakes in my life and have a pattern of allowing little doubts in, my habits of building faith in my life help me overcome these areas of weakness. Let me explain.

In the midst of a trial I have learned to keep doing what I know to do. I feed on the word of God, pray in the spirit at every opportunity, and keep my love walk active. These three things have kept me out of walking lead of my flesh or in other words, not trusting in what my five physical senses tell me. Faith comes by hearing, and my ability to hear God comes by His word (spoken and written). Faith is the power that brings everything I need from heaven or the spirit realm into the natural realm. ***The spirit realm is here with me always, but if I'm more focused on the material or natural realm I won't be able to tap into the divine nature and the resources available through it.*** This last sentence is rich with answers so I suggest you read it a couple times. Let me give you a natural picture that will aid you in understanding what I mean.

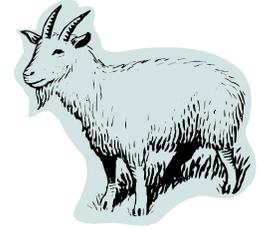
Everyday of my life I do certain things in a habitual pattern that help maintain a natural order in my life. Whether I'm here in west Texas or on the other side of the world in Belarus I do these things. I wake up, I use the bathroom, I brush my teeth and wash my face. I then make my bed and straighten up around me. The night before I set out clothes appropriate for what I know I will be doing the next day. It helps me stay in a rhythm and maintain a level of peace. With a cup of hot tea and some faith building periodical, book or my bible I start my day. I have also added taking communion to my morning regime. There are times when I can't do all of the above, but if I do some of them I can center myself and get a handle on the day. Throughout my routine I talk to God. I ask Him questions and let Him know I need to hear His voice and thank Him for diverse blessings I recognize in my daily walk. Even in times where I'm being tried I can use this routine to keep things in perspective. We all have things we do on a habitual cycle that help us establish a level of calm. My pattern is going to be different than others' but we all have patterns of behavior we need for comfort. Learning how to do this in a "storm" is important in these perilous times. God created us with the capacity to adjust to our environment for this very reason.

Spiritually we can do the same. If we will establish a routine of faith building practices, we will be able to maintain them in the trials and temptations the adversary uses to pull the rug out from underneath us. Even when it "feels" like it's not working I do these same things routinely because I have tried or proved them and found they work; feed on the word, pray in the spirit, and maintain a love walk.

We often misunderstand the word patience. We think it means we have to put up with bad people and bad circumstances, but that isn't true. Patience is knowing you're sowing seed and expecting your harvest any time. I consider everything I own, say and do as seed. I allow patience to have her perfecting work that I might be entire lacking nothing. I sow even when it's stormy. I know if I keep doing these things that have proved faithful and that bring good results, I can outlast the storm. I hope this helps you see walking by faith in a more manageable way. It's not some impossible thing, just a matter of discipline. You can do it, as you allow Christ (the Anointed One and the Comforter who confirms the word you're believing on) to work in you.

Force Fed?

Having raised goats and cared for a neighbor's ram I have a small amount of understanding about the feeding habits of goats. In biblical times sheep and goats were taken out to huge fields to pasture. We only had 2 1/2 acres of land here on this little farm and it wasn't always full of greenery that the animals could eat. For that reason we would buy grain and alfalfa. Our animals were spoiled, more like pets, but they weren't so different that I can't understand the feeding nature of such beasts. We could provide a variety of feed, but it was quite another thing to get them to eat it. We had to manage our animals. Because they were spoiled there were some grasses they refused to eat, until they grew hungry enough to consider them. We couldn't force them to eat a thing; we had to out wait them.



The preacher or minister is not responsible to make the flock eat, only provide good feed and then it's up to the individual to eat it or waste what is given to him/her. I see many in ministry get frustrated when the sheep waste what is taught them, but they are simply messengers not called to force feed the lazy or spoiled lambs.

I have also seen sheep that blame the minister for the fact that things aren't working in their lives, but the sheep that never does what the word prescribes can't blame the minister for his/her own slothfulness or unbelief. Faith without corresponding action is dead being alone. We're told not to be forgetful hearers, but doers of the word. God can only bless those who obey or act upon His promises in the word.

The body without the spirit is dead. The natural without the spiritual is dead. That is why finding the part God expects us to do must come first before He can or will do a thing. God set up this era with certain rules or laws. Rules and laws aren't bad things; they demonstrate faithfulness and dependability to us. I know (because of the law of gravity) that a bowling ball dropped here on earth will always fall down; I can depend upon it! I know the law or rule of gravity is faithful and will work in certain ways depending upon the given environment. On the moon gravity works differently, but just as faithfully as here on earth. So it is with divine rules, laws and principles! If I am willing to eat God's word I will hear His voice and faith will come. If I act upon what I hear, I will have what I have believed for from His word. Why, because of the laws of faith! God is not a man. God cannot lie. If God said or promised something, He will do it. These are a few of the laws of the kingdom or rule of God.

I get excited about finding new laws in His word for the very reasons I've shared. I hope you will as well. I can lead you to still waters, but I can't make you drink from them. Selah.

The Year Ahead

We all want to know what's ahead, but God in His divine wisdom never gives us the whole picture, but He does give us little bits of light to help us find our way. The world calls this the "New Year" even though according to the biblical calendar we are already several months into 5773. God knew man would monkey around with the calendar and even He adjusts time every now and again. We like the idea of resetting the clock as it gives us what we call a "fresh start". Men make resolutions that help them start towards something new, but God's mercy for fresh starts is new every morning. There are those of us who do see things ahead of time and for this reason I want to give you some stepping stones to look for in the days, weeks and months ahead. At the same time I want to remind you that though God acknowledged man touching the calendar, it is His calendar that He follows and not ours. Because He gave us dominion on the planet He will work within our skewed time frames, but His "moeds" or appointed times don't change just because we have a messed up sense



**Knitting the Body of Christ
together in godly love.**



The Year Ahead.....continued

of timing. God is God and He has the last word. Consider the parable of the ten virgins!

Things to look for:

- Unusual divine appointments signaled by supernatural manifestations to “catch your eye”. (ie: Moses and the burning bush).
- God uses “now faith” to channel things from the spirit realm to the natural realm. Get rid of the idea that God is “going to heal, going to provide, going to protect or going to direct”. Going to speaks of the future and God wants us to believe we have a thing when we pray. See Mark 11:22-26
- The atmosphere of unbelief is pretty thick these days. Getting away from the crowd to hear Him is a REALLY good idea. Head outside of town, take road trips specifically for times with Him.
- Things are going to look really nasty in the world, but we are in the “secret place”. Work on creating an “ark” of faith in your own life. Ready a Proverb a day to have access to godly wisdom to know how to deal with the challenges ahead.
- God inhabits the praises of His children. If you don’t have a regular personal time of worship with God start implementing one. You need His presence for what’s coming. Ask God to open the eyes of your understanding. Study Ephesians 1 and Colossians 1 regarding the prayer Paul prayed for enlightening for the people of his day.

