



A String of Pearls

WINTER 2013/2014

The Proverbial Woman

Catching Up

Special points of interest:

- The world is going through great changes but God is always ahead of those changes. The closer we are to Him, the quicker we will be to hear His warnings, directives and admonitions. None of these changes surprise Him and He will see us through them all.
- Trust in the LORD with all your heart, NOT in your own understanding. REALLY!

It's been quite a while since I last wrote to you all. Life has its way of offering changes and dealing with those changes can have a direct affect on what we do and choose not to do. My focus has been on myself for the past year. That may sound selfish, and I must admit it is, but one must love oneself in order to love others. After losing Jeff I needed time to hear God for my life, for my future. I have a new person in my life. We found each other traveling similar paths. I lost my spouse and so did my new love. We were both married 34 years and both found ourselves lonely and not willing to continue living without someone to share life with. We met in January of 2013 and married the last day of October. He's a quiet, private man, a believer, and works hard and takes very good care of me. I'm sure over the course of time I will share more, but I honor his privacy, as he is not accustomed to the level of openness that one must have in ministry. We are living in Midland and I am enjoying the life of a new bride. Roy and I are very happy and are growing together. We covet your prayers as we (through God's grace) meld two families into one.



My world has changed. How about yours?

Changes

It seems that change is the word of the day. I'm hearing it more and more often and not just in regards to my own life, but for the Body in general. One need only spend a little time paying attention to the media to know change is in the air, some good but most not so good.

Changes.....continued



Does change make your world go round or turn it upside down?

If you're like me you don't jump for joy at most changes. Sure if you're bored and want something to send the boredom packing you may look for change, but only within given parameters. You may be ok with change if YOU implement it and have control, but what if you have no control over the changes headed your way? Those kinds of changes tend to cause us panic. What if you decide to make a change, but once you make the decision you discover you have little control over how the changes affect you? Again, panic will be right at your doorstep with its whiny foreboding voice. It's all about fear and knowing how to chase it away. Panic is nothing more than fear dressed up in the rags of logic. Logic is one of the fruits from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. That fruit is just as deadly today as it was when Adam took the first bite nearly six thousand years ago.

The word of God, as a rule, comes to my mind when I'm dealing with anything that the adversary offers such as panic or fear of change. As I was typing these words I heard a couple of verses that came to mind as I remembered how God taught me to deal with the change, panic, fear, logic or a multitude of other scary things I faced after Jeff died. We are told in the bible "perfect love casts out fear". God is love, perfect love. His word is He manifesting His love to us. Therefore we can find the love of God to deal with the noise the enemy spouts to cause us to fear.

James 1: 2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh (employs) patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

AND

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

You may find yourself skimming over those verses because they are so familiar and almost seem trite, but please take the time to read them and meditate on them purposefully and carefully. We are almost too familiar with the written word and have come to the place where we take it for granted. Like a spouse we've grown comfortable with and assume will always be by our side we may glance at the chair he/she sits in, see the per-

Changes.....continued

son yet we don't take the time to appreciate how wonderful and important that person is. Please take my word for it; NEVER take anything you love for granted. It can be gone in the blink of an eye.

Change is a constant in our lives. Look in the mirror. Is the person standing there the same person you saw five years ago? How about ten years ago? This world is full of forces causing change and we have to be able to come through the changes as strong in faith as we were when we first faced them. It all boils down to trusting God every step of the way and NOT leaning to the arm of the flesh. You can bet you'll be sorely tempted to figure out the answers, and if you're even the least bit honest with yourself you'll recognize that eventually you're going to face a situation outside your abilities (no matter how gifted you may be.) Of course there are always those who stubbornly think they will never come to the place where they need outside help. Sadly there isn't much help for this sort of person. Let's not be so hardheaded and hardhearted that we end up handcuffed to that guy which, stubbornly goes on in his own way. He ends up wearing the cement overshoes diving into the deep end of the pool!

The word is eternal, but it is daily bread to us. We can't eat a slice today and skip a week or two without suffering spiritual starvation. When the spirit is starved the soul and body take over control. When the soul and body are in charge the adversary is bound to show up with his marionette strings and will most assuredly have his way.

2 Timothy 2:24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, 25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; 26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

With the increase of knowledge (prophesied in Daniel 2:4) comes arrogance. (1 Corinthians 8:1) Adam acknowledged his need and his nakedness, but many today have become hardhearted, hardheaded and stiff necked. They press through situations and hold fast to thinking that defies wisdom. Worldly and self reliant people have come to the conclusion that there is no spirit realm, no God and no need of outside help. In their minds the bible should be relegated to the basements of dark dusty museums. The advances of science and technology have made men think they are self-enlightened, self sufficient and self made, but all of these "advancements" have price tags and side effects. Those who can see that there is a need for God, a huge need,

Changes.....continued



**Can you see
change coming
or does it take
you by surprise?**

there is hope. For those who are self-deluded thinking they can use their brains to be anything they want, and do whatever feels good, intercession must be made. The bible tells us that a deceived man doesn't know what he stumbles at. Again I refer to 2 Timothy 2:24 above.

History is full of men doing the same thing over and over, making the same mistakes their forefathers made. In the midst of the chaos and insanity of the past there has always been a remnant that prayed for the lost, the bound, the stubborn and the dying. Change is bound to come, and for the godly and obedient is hope and victory. For the stubbornly blind and lost ones is very little hope unless we pray for them to see and hear God NOW.

Two Prayers for Spiritual Sight

**"THE EYES OF
YOUR UNDER
STANDING
BEING
ENLIGHTENED"**

The apostle Paul was called and gifted to reach out to the Gentile peoples or the nations. He was fully trained and experienced in the Torah and the keeping of righteousness through works. He experienced a huge transformation when Yeshua/Jesus stopped him on the road to Damascus. His job after the Lord redirected him was to preach the gospel of the kingdom and to disciple those who believed. He went into some of the most pagan countries and disciplined strong faith-filled believers. These believers are the foundation of the Body of Christ we are built upon today. Along the way there was corruption of his teaching, but the closer the end draws to us, the more the Body is pressing into hearing God by His Holy Spirit. Not satisfied with the cute little Sunday school lessons of childhood, the members of the Body are studying and learning for themselves. The prophesy of Jeremiah 31:34 (**And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.**) is coming to pass!



God decides who has light and who doesn't. It is a gift and not something to be taken for granted. Everything we get from God is by grace through faith.

Two Prayers.....continued

Zephaniah 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.

We don't come to God of ourselves, but are drawn to Him by His loving mercy. It is the goodness of God that leads men to repentance. For this reason those of us who have been found of God need to pray for those who are lost. Paul penned the following two prayers while teaching the congregations in Ephesus and Colossae.

Ephesians 1: 15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, 16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; 17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, 19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.

Colossians 1:9-23 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; 12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: 15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18

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P. O. Box 662
Gardendale, TX 79758


Cerise Cherry

And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell; 20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. 21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled 22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight: 23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister.

Both of these prayers are packed full of good spiritual seed that can be sown in our hearts and in the airwaves of the kingdom. Prayed with our own needs in mind, the light we have can increase. Prayed over those around us and for the Body, revelation can shoot forth like bamboo reaching for the warmth of the rays of summer sun and salvation or re-birth of their spirits will be the end result!