Corona Virus Social Distancing Daily Devotion #8

A Time to Humble Us

Deuteronomy 8:11-16 (NASB) 11 "Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments and His ordinances and His statutes which I am commanding you today; 12 otherwise, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived in them, 13 and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies, 14 then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 15 "He led you through the great and terrible wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water; He brought water for you out of the rock of flint. 16 "In the wilderness He fed you manna which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do good for you in the end.”
When God led the Hebrews out of Egypt, He did so with the mighty power that only He could display. He humbled the Egyptian Pharaoh and brought him to his knees to show him he was not a god and that there is only one true God.
Pride was Pharaoh’s greatest ally as the leader of the most powerful nation of the world in that day. But pride has never been an attribute of God’s people. Pride has always been a detriment. It is through pride that every living soul elevates himself to a place that is anti-God. And God will not have anyone, or anything take His place. (Exodus 20:3) Pride always brings people to destruction; it never helps. In fact, the proverbs speak to this very thing. Proverbs 16:18 (NASB) 18 “Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling.”
God knew that when the Hebrews were safe from the threat of the Egyptians, pride would eventually grow. And in order to keep them from becoming prideful and taking credit for their release from Egypt, he put them in the wilderness. And He did that because they needed something to keep them humble, to keep them looking to Him for sustenance and sustainability. Look at the text from today again from verses 11-15 and you will see this clearly.
When the question about the coronavirus comes up in conversation about why all of this is happening, we should remember that God always works for our best interests. And part of His best interest for us is to bring about things that humble us and things that test our faith. As you know, our world is having less and less use for God. So, to keep His people humble so we don’t fall into that same trap as the world, He puts us in situations that force us to look to Him. To remember that we need Him every day even for the basic, daily needs.
Beloved, everything we have is supplied to us by the Lord. When we begin to think there is something we have done on our own or when we take credit for something, no matter what it may be, and we forget or don’t acknowledge God for His work in us and through us, we have given place to pride. That doesn’t mean we don’t have great abilities and shouldn’t be recognized for those things, but we must always be careful to give God the credit for all we have and all we do.
Could it be that God has sent us to the wilderness, so to speak, to humble us? To test our reliance on Him?
Take a few minutes and look around your house or your work or business and ask yourself how much credit you have taken for achieving the things you have. It can be the children you have or grades from school or degrees or awards or achievements or some other kind of recognition.
Then, offer everything you have and all that you are to God. Give Him the credit for everything. This is not a time to be proud of anything, but a time to humble ourselves before God and know that everything He does is for our good.