Daily Devotion #87

Learning to Lean on Jesus

*Proverbs 3:6 – “In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.”*

Many years ago, there was a song that we sang in the church of which I was a member. It was called, “Learning to Lean” I can remember the words of the first stanza well, “*Leaning to lean, learning to lean, I’m learning to lean on Jesus, Finding more power than I’ve ever dreamed, I’m learning to lean on Jesus*.” At that time, the words didn’t mean as much as they do now.

When we have gone through the many challenges life throws at us, we learn that we have much less control or power over things and people as we once thought. In our younger years we have the tendency to think that we can control and perhaps manipulate life so that it will go our way. Sometimes that works, but mostly, we learn that life is much too big and too powerful for us to control much of anything.

The blessing of being a child of God is knowing that we don’t have to control life only live it. We don’t have to try to manipulate life but let God unfold life as He chooses. Truly, when we come to the place that we understand that we have a heavenly Father who wants to take care of us all the way to the end, there is comfort like nothing else.

When the Apostle Paul wrote to the Philippian church, “*God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus*”, there must have been a holy shout of praise that resounded through the entire Philippian region. Imagine that you were there with them. Imagine that your life was filled with uncertainty of what the next day would bring. Imagine that you didn’t know where you would get your next meal. These are real concerns, but yet God has promised to meet our needs.

The key is to lean on Jesus. We must be willing to abandon ourselves, our abilities, and our mental understanding of how life works, and let Jesus do the work that we cannot do. That doesn’t mean we lie in bed all day and give up all effort to make life happen, not at all. What it means is we get up each day, relying on the Lord to guide us in the way He wants for us to go and trust that He is moving us in a way that will be for our good. To lean on Jesus every moment is to do what we must do each day, but in our hearts trust that He is guiding us through it all.

Listen to some things the Lord says about His guidance. *Psalm 37:23 – “The steps of a man are established by the Lord, And He delights in his way.” Proverbs 21:1 – “The king’s heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes.”*

Beloved, do you question the direction of your life? Do you wonder why things have turned out the way they have for you? There are only a couple of answers. Either you have ignored the Word of the Lord as God designed it to direct your steps, and you are living out the consequences of your decisions, or God is at work through you to accomplish His purposes.

For those who belong to Him, everything He does is for our good and His glory. (Philippians 2:13) What He wants from us is to lean on Him. To trust Him when we cannot make sense out of what is happening. Much in our world today feels like it is out of our control, so why not lean on the One who has control? Why not learn to put Him and His will and purposes before your own?

Leaning on Jesus is the best, and truthfully the only, way to successfully navigate the waters of life. Take your hands of the wheel of life, so to speak, and let Jesus have control. You won’t regret it.