Daily Devotion #90

Joy in the Morning

*Psalm 30:5 – “Weeping may last for the night, But a shout of joy comes in the morning.”*

There are two times of day that I love the most. One is early morning, the other is noon or around one pm. The reason I like early mornings is because my mind is the freshest and the clearest. You know those mornings when you have awakened, and you realize you have another chance at life. Mornings bring the body back the energy it lost from the previous day. And noon is the time that everything in life seems to be at its peak. Life just seems to be moving at a pace that is off the chart with thrills and excitement.

One of the things I love about the Psalms is the way the writers bring out the realities of life. It is as if you are reading into the hearts of the men who wrote them as they were experiencing the trials of their lives as well as the joys. They just seem to express the heart of life issues so well.

In this life there is so much that is fake. Not that things are not real, but too often people try to be something they are not. Our world teaches us to rise above others and to be the strong one in the group or the dominate one. It teaches us to step on whoever and whatever to get and be the best. But it is not that way with God. God looks to His people to be humble in all things and to trust Him for everything. He wants us to acknowledge our defeats and our concerns. He wants us to accept the truth that we cannot live this life without Him or be anything without Him.

When a person comes to that place of total abandonment of themselves and total trust and hope in God, is when life truly begins. Real life! Godly life! Joyful life! As strange as it sounds, true heartfelt joy doesn’t come to us until we acknowledge we are nothing without Him. The darkness of this life - I’m talking about the sinful things or the sinful tendencies that come at us - are designed by Satan to cause us to fail and be overwhelmed with life. He wants for us to be bound and trapped by the things we can’t fix and the people who are the most difficult for us to deal with. But the Lord wants us to fully embrace Him in all things.

Is there anything you are holding back from God? Are there situations in your life that are keeping you from fully trusting the Lord? Who are the people with whom you have struggled? What keeps you from simply abandoning yourself with all your wants and desires and falling on your face before Jesus, either literally or figuratively, and surrendering your life to Him?

To live life with one foot in the spirit realm with Jesus and one foot in the natural world with Satan creates a soul that often weeps at night for the things it cannot have and be. When we hold on to what we want to be and have, this distress often keeps us from sleeping and finding the rest that our souls need. I’m talking about inner rest not just physical rest. The joy that came to the Psalmist in the morning was a soul joy, a joy that only a soul knows who is resting in their Savior.

The trials and pressures of this life will certainly come, and they will overwhelm you if you don’t learn how to let go and let Jesus take them. Your weeping will last into the night over the things you cannot deal with and there will be no joy in the morning. No true, spiritual, Godly rest. But if you are willing to let go of this life and long in your heart to serve God with every breath, there will still be troubles, Jesus was clear about that in John 16:33, but there will most certainly be joy in your soul through it all. There will be rest for the weary as the new morning breaks each day.

Isn’t that a great morning to look forward to?