Daily Devotion #131

Jesus Is Our Strength

Philippians 4:13 – **“***I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”*

Life throws us many curve balls. Just when you think things might be one way, something happens to cause us to change our direction or thought process or way of doing things - such as an unforeseen job change or a health issue or financial crisis. And even when it comes to our children, their decisions and actions can and do cause us at times to be at our wits end. These things can get very overwhelming and cause us to wonder how we will manage it all.

Often people will say something like, “I just can’t do this, or I can’t handle this right now”. Meaning, the situation is too overwhelming, and they would rather not think about it. Often they truly believe they will not be able to handle what is coming or what they are currently having to deal with.

The Apostle Paul was a man who had many changes in his life. And there were times he didn’t see those changes coming. For example, in my estimation, the biggest challenge he faced was when he had his first encounter with the Lord Jesus while on his way to Damascus to persecute Christians. (Acts 9) Paul had a plan to rid the world of the people who denied Judaism and had turned to Jesus. But what a shock it was for him when Jesus blinded him, literally, and proved to Paul who He was. It was at that point that Paul began his new life with Jesus and became the greatest missionary for Christ the world has ever known.

There were times Paul was mistreated both physically and spiritually. He was shipwrecked. (2 Corinthians 11) He was beaten with rods by his accusers who wanted him to stop spreading the message of Jesus and His Gospel. He was alone in dark prisons. He suffered ridicule from people who once were his friends. He, many times, went without food and sleep. Life was not easy for him. Yet Paul had great faith in Jesus. He came to the awareness that there was nothing he could not do through the power and strength of Christ working in him. God had proven to Paul that there was nothing he could not do if he trusted God through whatever the situation was.

We often look at this verse and think that surely there are things Paul was not talking about. Certainly, Paul did not mean he could do “all” things through Christ. But Paul said and meant “all”. In fact, there were things Paul did that make us take notice. He was once bitten by a venomous snake and nothing happened. (Acts 28:3)

Jesus said that if we have faith the size of a mustard seed, we can move mountains. (Matthew 17:20) This was evidenced by the fact that the Apostles did many amazing things after Jesus had given them the power to do so. These things were done through these men to give evidence of Christ in them and to help others see that Jesus Christ is Lord of all. They were unique people who God used for extraordinary things.

You and I may not have the same ability that these men did for the specific time they had on the earth. But the message of God is still the same. In the power of Jesus, you and I can handle whatever comes our way, when we put our faith in Christ. It may not be the Lord’s will for us to raise the dead or do some amazing miracle, but with His power working in us, we can face the challenges of our days. We can handle to emotional and mental and even physical challenges that we struggle with. We can handle the unforeseen events that occur because the strength of Jesus is in us by the working of the Holy Spirit.

Be encouraged beloved. No matter what you are facing, Jesus is strong enough to help you through. Trust Him. Have faith in him. Believe Him. Watch Him work.