Devotion #280

**Don’t Be Frustrated**

**Psalm 62:5-6 (NASB)** *“My soul, wait in silence for God only, For my hope is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be shaken.”*

Frustration is frustrating. Sadly, with all that is going on in our world, it seems more and more people are finding themselves frustrated even over the simplest of things. I was just talking with someone who works in a local retail store. They said it is getting harder and harder to be in that environment because so many people are upset about the most trivial things. Another person who works in the food services industry told me they often have to deal with cursing customers because orders was wrong. One lady called to curse them because a container opened in the bag and caused her dress to get soiled. I understand the frustration of those things, but the reality is, food or clothing or anything else really doesn’t have anything to do with a person being frustrated. Usually people are already upset about something, and the little things set them off. I told the person who shared with me about the cursing customers that they should lovingly say to them, “You realize you are losing your cool over food.”. But that wouldn’t go well and would probably just ignite the situation more even though it is true. So the question is, how do you and I as believers live in a growing volatile society?

To answer that I need to share with you something I learned some years ago. God tells us that Israel was and still are His chosen people - a people who would be used by Him to display His glory among the nations. In fact, He placed Israel in the perfect spot physically to be at the center of the world at that time. You and I look at the tiny area of real estate that Israel occupies and wonder why there? Of all the places, why right there? The reason is, that location was the cross-roads of the world. The merchants and travelers would pass through Israel to go north or south to make their livings. So what better place than right there. What that did was put a witness for God in the middle of the lives of all people. But Israel failed. Over and over they failed because they wouldn’t be the people God called them to be, and ultimately they rejected their Messiah.

You and I were also placed in a cross-roads of sorts. As I mentioned in a recent devotion, it is no accident that you were born to the parents you were born to and have lived in the places you have lived or gone to school where you did and even where you work. God has placed you there to be a witness to the passing world – a world that lives most of its existence in frustration, without hope, without knowledge of God. They live a miserable life while thinking everything is great. But you and I know differently.

If we get frustrated just like the world and display that frustration over the simplest of things, we will be no different than they are. We become just like the world, and, therefore, have no witness of Christ in and through us. What a tragedy it would be for God to have put you where you are to be a witness for Him, only to get lost in the frustrations of the menial parts of life.

The Psalmist said that he would wait patiently on God. His hope was in God alone. His foundation was in God, therefore, the frustrations of this world would not shake him loose from what he knew to be true. That’s a good word for us today. As we see the needs of people, even when they curse at us over the dumbest things, we need to remember the bigger picture. You and I are filled with the Holy Spirit and have been given His power to work through anything we come across. So, as hard as it is at times, we need to push away what we feel in our flesh and let our hearts radiate Jesus. People will be blessed by your kind words and your patient responses, even if they don’t admit it. And maybe God will use your loving smile or gesture to lead them to Himself. That would be worth the frustration we feel now when we see those souls worshipping God in heaven for eternity. Wouldn’t it?