

Wholeness

Quarterly World Digest of Christian Healing

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Gratis.



From the
Editor

Is God In Control?

The daily news would indicate a “No” answer to the above question. And it would have been the same sentiment 2000 years ago, had we been standing with a crowd watching a man being jeered as he died on a cross. But, fortunately for us, God was in absolute control that day. “The Lord says, ‘It was my will that he should suffer; his death was a sacrifice to bring forgiveness. ...’” (Isaiah 53:10) And Peter’s prayer confirmed who ran things on that most terrible Good Friday: “They [Herod & Pontius Pilate] gathered to do everything that you by your power and will had already decided would happen.” (Acts 4:28)

The things that occur in this world, even the bad ones, aren’t evidence that God isn’t in control; they’re evidence that we don’t really understand how God’s control works. The Kingdom of God doesn’t run world affairs, not as we’d like them to be run. Jesus made that very point, “... My Kingdom is not of this world.” (John 18:36) How wonderful that He didn’t leave us to search for His Kingdom, He gave us total clarity as to where it is, “... The kingdom of God is within you.” (Luke 17:21) This leads us to the key question of God’s sovereignty: **Is God in control of my life?** If the answer is “Yes”, then our personal world is the best world it could possibly be. But if our sense is that God isn’t really, fully in control - certainly not as much as we’d like Him to be - then it’s timely for us to consider a change to our situation.

First, we need to recognise that our having a more God-pleasing, God-blessed future isn’t up to God; it’s entirely up to us. Certainly Jesus is the way - He’s the only way - but we are called to get up and follow. “You welcome those who find joy in doing what is right, those who remember how you want them to live ...” (Isaiah 64:5) As Christians, we don’t just exist, with God raining His blessings down upon us - nice though that would be; we have to seek God’s blessings. And being active in that regard doesn’t equate with simply being busy in service. Jesus was asked: “What can we do in order to do what God wants us to do?” (John 6:28) His answer: “What God wants you to do is to believe in the one he sent.” It’s not works that lead to divine favour, but faith that leads to works. It was the act out of faith that made Abraham righteous in God’s eyes, and it’s when our acts are prompted by faith that God is pleased with us today.

Is God in Control? He’s just as much in control as we let Him be. When Jesus was being arrested, beaten, mocked, whipped, and crucified, He allowed those things to happen because He was being totally obedient to His Father’s will; and so His Father was allowed to be in total control of the situation. And it’s the same for us. Whenever we go through hardships and challenges, and in their midst we obey our Father, we allow Him to control the situation. It’s up to us to establish His control, and thus assure ourselves of the best possible outcome. Blessing us has been God’s design all along, and will always be His intention. “But I did command them to obey me, so that I would be their God and they would be my people. And I told them to live the way I had commanded them, so that things would go well for them.” (Jeremiah 7:23) Amen.

Transcending Your Trials

Reprinted with permission from the author, Shauna Amick, from the Spring 2015 issue of “Just Between Us”

Hagar was a mistreated slave living in a foreign land. Pregnant and rejected, she fled to the desert to escape her circumstances. With no prospects, no support system, and no visible hope for the future, Hagar surely felt the weight of her predicament, “How can I go on one more day like this?” Enter the angel of the Lord. He spoke to the outcast Hagar, instructing her to go back to her difficult situation and deal with it, knowing that God Almighty, El-Shaddai, would be going back with her. Not only that, but He’d be keeping watch over her and her baby through all that lay ahead.

Hagar’s response to this angelic encounter rings full with hope overflowing. “She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: ‘[El Roi] You are the God who sees me,’ for she said, ‘I have now seen the One who sees me.’” (Genesis 16:13) That is what made all the difference in Hagar’s life. Her circumstances didn’t miraculously change, but she had experienced the miracle of a changed perspective. Knowing that God is real, and that He was really involved in her life story, gave Hagar renewed vision for what otherwise looked like a hopeless situation. That same realization helped me in my time of desperation.

After learning through ultrasound that my third child was diagnosed with Down syndrome and a potentially fatal heart defect, after praying for the remaining five months of pregnancy that God would heal my unborn daughter’s heart and allow her to be born without a cognitive disability, and after giving birth to our sweet Sarah Hope only to realize that God chose not to answer either of those prayer requests according to my plan, I was desperate. Desperate for a do-over, desperate to escape my new reality, desperate to know I had not been rejected by the God I so loved.

Sarah was born on a beautiful summer day and quickly started dying. She went from the delivery room straight to the

**God’s voice
spoke
“I see you,”
He said**

neonatal intensive care unit. This was the start of a waiting game like nothing I had ever known before. How many days could Sarah survive before open heart surgery became unavoidable? Every day we waited allowed Sarah’s veins, arteries, and tiny new-born heart to grow, thus increasing her chances for successful surgery. Wait too long, however, and the chance of a new lease on life would pass her by.

The critical turning point in Sarah’s story came when she was six weeks old. “Sarah has decided she’d like to have heart surgery now,” was the compassionate way her cardiologist let us know we couldn’t prolong things one day longer. Our heart-wrenching situation was about to get even more distressing. Consent forms were signed, Sarah was dedicated to the Lord in the hospital room, and I prepped myself for an all-night prayer vigil that would lead to Sarah’s early morning surgery. Holding my precious child in my arms, encumbered by all of her life support tubes and wires, I pleaded with God. “Save her, Jesus. Spare Sarah’s life.



Carry her through tomorrow’s surgery. Carry me through this, God. My strength is gone. How can I go on one more day like this?”

It was then that Sarah’s nurse walked into the room. She started shutting off monitors and unplugging Sarah from the various machines she had been connected to for all six weeks of her fragile life - machines I thought Sarah needed to survive. “I think you and Sarah should go for a walk, Mrs. Amick,” said the nurse as she handed me a pager. “You can go anywhere you want in the hospital, just be back within 20 minutes.” Her eyes finished her explanation. I understood. Sarah could make it for 20 minutes without medical intervention. I also understood why Sarah’s nurse was extending such grace. There was no guarantee my daughter would live through the next day’s events, and I had never been given the blessing of holding her without hospital equipment between us. If Jesus decided to take Sarah home to heaven, this would be my one and only opportunity to love her, flesh to flesh.

I held Sarah close to my heart and decided I’d be back before the time limit was up. As I headed toward the elevator I realized I had no idea where I was going. All I knew was that I was being given the gift of escaping the hospital room that had confined my baby and me for what felt like forever. The elevator door closed off contact with the nightmare I was living, and, wanting to get as close to God as possible, I pushed the button to the hospital’s highest floor. Stepping out onto this unknown territory, I was met by floor to ceiling windows. The view was stunning; Boston’s skyline at midnight is a light show illuminating countless souls needy for the one true God. I suddenly felt very small. Alone. Invisible. Numb from weeks and months of heartache, the only prayer I could whisper was, “Jesus”.

Enter the presence of the Lord. God’s voice spoke directly to my core. “I see you,” He said, taking my breath away, and in that moment everything changed. The God of the Universe

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Transcending Your Trials

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sees me and sees this dying baby in my arms. In the middle of this sea of confusion, El-Shaddai took time to meet with me at my point of desperation and set the record straight. He wasn't simply watching from a distance, hands limp by His side. God Almighty was actively working in my situation to work all things together for Sarah's good, and for the ultimate good of our family; and because of that - because of Him - I knew that from then on I could do this.



My circumstances were still hard. Sarah would still have open heart surgery in just a few hours, and even if that surgery was successful, she would still have Down syndrome. Meeting with God on the top floor of that hospital didn't miraculously change my daughter's diagnoses, but it did deliver the miracle of a changed perspective. My situation was no longer desperate. It was hopeful, my vision renewed.

Joni Eareckson Tada has lived with quadriplegia ever since her diving accident 48 years ago. She understands our inherent need to trade in our human perspectives for God's point of view. "Life is hard," confesses Joni. "Trials are not for our pleasure; they are for our profit. Once you accept this truth," she continues, "you transcend it. Once you have eyes to see Jesus Christ carrying you through your trial, monumentally heavy burdens become easier to bear."

The Lord met Hagar in the desert. He gave her His perspective on her circumstances, and she was able to face her trials with new confidence. The Lord met me on the top floor of a children's hospital. He spoke to my broken mother's heart, allowing me to see my baby's health crisis and my baby with new eyes. The One who sees me brought me to a spacious place where I was able to transcend my own

hopelessness, and that is what made all the difference.

What hard thing are you dealing with? It may not be Down syndrome or a heart defect. It may not be quadriplegia or the agony of rejection, but every one of us suffers trials of one sort or another. Life is hard. Life can be lonely. Conflicts and crises can leave us feeling isolated, with little or no hope for better

days. The glorious truth that transcends all these scenarios is that God sees you. He sees you on your knees in prayer for your family's situation. He sees the sacrifices you make because you love Him. He sees you facing one trial after another in a manner that blesses His name, and He wants you to remember He is with you through it all. He will remove some of the obstacles in your path, and He'll ask you to walk through others, but through thick and thin God is by your side. The same Jesus who transcended death itself, will lift you up to transcend whatever trial is overwhelming you today.

Every day is a good day to welcome God's perspective on the hard things in our lives. That conscious action will help us see each new day with the promise of better things to come. It will give us a glimpse of El Roi, the God who sees us in return.

Shauna Amick, M.Ed., serves as the Director of Joni and Friends New England, founded by Joni Eareckson Tada with the mission to accelerate Christian outreach in the disability community. Shauna and her husband Steve live in New Hampshire with their three children. Their youngest, Sarah Hope, has Down syndrome. Her open heart surgery at six weeks of age was miraculously successful. She is now 10 years old; full of energy and joy.

What is Praying 24-7?

Adapted from "Red Moon Rising" by Pete Greig

Prayer is not just about the contemplative moments, or the moments when we're consciously firing words at God. To pray 24-7 is to live our whole lives, twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week, in the grateful awareness of God's presence, and with a desire to always please Him. The call to "pray without ceasing" in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 is a call to continually remember Christ's presence in the subliminal as well as in the conscious realms of my life. But how am I to do this? How am I to keep Christ in my subconscious, even when I'm sleeping or working or watching a movie? How am I to be a Christian by default as well as by determination?



Pete Greig

The key is to maintain a rhythm, a heartbeat of disciplined prayer, in which I encounter Christ regularly, deliberately, and consciously. The fruit of these times, as you will see in the character of any older person who has spent a great deal of

their lives in communion with Jesus, is that His presence naturally moves from the conscious, by a process of osmosis, until it permeates one's entire being. As we time and again open the door to Christ, He comes in day by day and eats with us, laughs with us and shares with us, until we acquire his mannerisms and know His very thoughts. The ultimate 24-7 prayer room is the human heart fully surrendered to God.

Far from being a people who withdraw from society to live in spiritual bubbles of perpetual prayer, we must immerse ourselves in society, having first immersed ourselves in the Spirit. Then, our unique identity will be expressed, not in solitude, but in the discourse of life. Our salt is for those who don't believe. Our light is for those who are in darkness. And most assuredly, for us to be that salt and light, we must be in relationship with our Father, 24-7.

"Whether we think of or speak to God, whether we act or suffer for Him, all is prayer when we have no other object than His love and the desire of pleasing Him. All that a Christian does, even in eating and sleeping, is prayer when it is done in simplicity according to the order of God ... In souls filled with love the desire to please God is a continual prayer." (John Wesley, "A Plain Account of Christian Perfection")

Preparing a Highway by an Act of Forgiveness

Hugh & Khara Bromiley,
Sharing Magazine September 2014



At a healing conference in Northern California we devoted the Saturday afternoon to the role of forgiveness in healing. Toward the end of the session we asked the participants to come forward to the altar rail for prayer, bringing with them a willingness to release forgiveness towards the person who had hurt them, and to ask for God's help with that issue. Earlier we had both been aware of a well-dressed woman in her late forties, who sat stiffly, and whose body and face seemed rigid with suppressed anger. As everyone else lined up to confess their unforgiveness before God, and to forgive the people against whom they were holding resentment, this woman didn't move an inch. Instead she became even more rigid.

Khara walked over and sat next to her. She asked if there was someone that the woman thought she needed to forgive. Through tight lips she replied in crisp tones, "I am not angry with anyone and I am not the kind of person who holds grudges." Khara could not accept her answer, and continued, "None of us can get through life without getting hurt, or feeling let down, or betrayed by someone. Surely there must be someone?" As Khara put her arm around this woman's shoulders, she suddenly broke into uncontrollable sobbing. Through the sobs and the tears she said, "Well there was my husband Bill. He treated me so awfully. Then my sister Mary would always turn my mother against me." As she and Khara moved together towards the altar, the names kept coming. She blurted out those of about forty people who had hurt her, and who until that moment she had never been able to forgive.

We watched in astonishment as her face suddenly softened and a relaxation spread through her body. It was as though the suppressed pain, anger and resentment had been the starch that held her face and body in that stiff, rigid state. As her tears became interspersed with laughter, the physical transformation was instantaneous as she seemed to shed years of age. Through one hour of confession, tears and prayer, right before our eyes a soft and engaging woman was healed of anger, resentment and unforgiveness. We later learned from her that the following nights were spent in deep and peaceful sleep, something she had not experienced in years.



"You can prepare for Him a highway that He may come more quickly. You can clear that highway by removing the rocks of resentment towards others that tend to accumulate over the years. And this you do by an act of forgiveness." ("The Healing Gifts of the Spirit", Agnes Sanford)

ORDER OF ST. LUKE

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For prayer requests, testimonies etc., contact "Wholeness" using the addresses on page 4.



"The time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

(2 Timothy 4:6-7)

I have been writing articles for Wholeness for four years now, as National Chaplain of the OSL New Zealand. Having recently inducted Rev Bill Sim into that position as my successor, I am now passing the baton, and Bill will add to this article by way of an introduction below. I commend Bill to you; he has his own style.

When Saint Paul wrote the above words to Timothy, Paul was in prison in Rome, enduring cold and damp conditions, and had every prospect of losing his life. I am not of course in such dire straits, and am experiencing only the human frailties that we are all subject to. Paul, in spite of being incarcerated, tirelessly maintained his ministry to the infant churches that had been established, and ardently encouraged Timothy in his work as an evangelist. He missed Timothy, who had worked closely with the Apostle, and who was like a son to him. Their relationship is a

Greetings from me, the next National Chaplain OSL NZ! I thought I had better tell you briefly about myself, to let you know what you are in for. In my youth I had a number of jobs, including farm work, house painting and employment as a freezing worker. After training as a teacher, I taught for twenty-five years in various places in New Zealand, and also on the mission field in Pakistan. I then trained for the priesthood, and served in two parishes over sixteen years. Since retiring I have continued to be active in various aspects of Christian ministry.

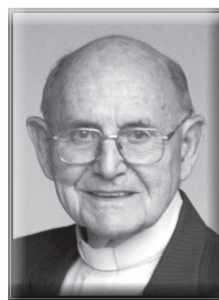
I have been interested in the healing ministry since becoming a Christian at the age

of thirty, and I have been a member of the OSL for about twenty years. I am a change agent, a bit of a stirrer, and an enabler of others in ministry. As the new National Chaplain I hope to utilize all of the above qualities in my ministry in The Order of St Luke. Look for me in the next edition of Wholeness.

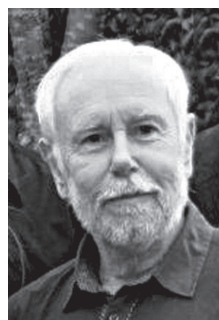
model for us. We are all fellow workers for the Lord, and consciously need to encourage one another. In whatever ways we may be restricted, however unworthy we may feel, and however lacking we may be in energy or inspiration, we still have a calling to be the love of Jesus in this world. As we recall the agony that Jesus endured on the cross, not for any self-advancement, but to give us a place in the kingdom, let us give thanks for the opportunities we have to serve our Lord.

So may I pray that you will be lights in the part of the world in which you live and where you seek the glory of God. May God bless you and keep you in his love.

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Pray Regardless of Results

Randy Clark, Healing Line Fall 2014

Whether or not a person being prayed for is healed is entirely up to God. We can assume that healing depends on the faith of the one being prayed for, or that of the one doing the praying; but we can be wrong. I learned some things when John Wimber allowed me to shadow him at several healing meetings. The instruction given to me was to watch and listen, and at the end of the meeting I was to ask John any questions prompted by what I observed. One night at a church in Houston, almost every person John prayed for was healed. The following night, nobody was healed. At the end of the second night, I said, "John, I have a question," to which the man of God responded, "Let me tell you what your question is. You want to know why everyone was healed last night, and no one was healed tonight, don't you?" He continued, "You don't get it, do you? Last night, when everyone I prayed for was healed, I didn't go to bed thinking I was some great healer, that I was somebody. And tonight when I go to bed I am not going to be thinking I'm a great failure. I didn't have any more faith last night than I did tonight, and I don't have any more sin in my life tonight than I did last night. Tomorrow I will get up and pray for the sick again. All I did both nights was to stick my fat hand out and say, 'Come, Holy Spirit!'"

This dialogue with John was a turning point for me. The answer to a breakthrough in healing is not some secret to be learned. It isn't based upon the merit of the person being prayed for, nor that of the one doing the praying. It is, however, related to faithfulness and willingness to persevere in ministering God's love to those in need of healing, regardless of the results. Though healing is wrapped in mystery, it is better understood as one seeks to know the ways of God. Exodus 33:13 states, "If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favour with you. Remember that this nation is your people." Discovering the ways of God relates to knowing Him better, which is of course central to finding favour with our Heavenly Father. To put it another way, the ministry of healing is much more successful when we stop focusing on trying to get God to bless what we are doing, and instead appreciate what He is doing, and bless that good thing. Being in such a place requires revelation from God, and only comes from intimacy with our Father.

There will always be a mystery to healing. If one waits until all the questions are answered before praying, one will never see healings and miracles. We must just accept that there are many unknown aspects of the human condition, and even more we don't know about the Kingdom of God. Faith will always be a mystery – be it the faith of the individual, corporate faith, or the expression of the gift of faith. And then, above all, we must accept that the sovereign purposes of God are known by Him alone. Obviously we can't know all that God knows. But we can apply our faith to believe that He knows best, and we can be open to divine revelation through the gifts of the Holy Spirit; especially words of knowledge, prophecy, faith, gifts of healings, and gifts of miracles.

It seems God has determined to link healing to the Good News, intentionally making healing a sign to confirm the gospel. Or, more accurately, and more biblically, healing is part of the gospel. It is an expression of the wondrous truth that Jesus bore our sins, sicknesses, and sorrows on the cross. The good news for each of us, and for those for whom we pray, is that the energy of the Kingdom of God can break into present-day time and space, and have the same effect now as it had two thousand years ago, "...The power of the Lord was present for Jesus to heal the sick." (Luke 5:17)

The God of Power

Based on the writings of John Borman, Faith for Daily Living

"The Lord is ... a fortress of salvation for his anointed one." (Psalm 28:8)

Many people today dismiss religion as a crutch. Your assignment in life, they claim, is to look after yourself, be assertive, tough, self-reliant and clever. They consider life to be governed by the principle of



the survival of the fittest, and regard religion as suitable for "the women and the weak". Perhaps the tendency in modern Christianity to focus on the kindly and loving aspects of God's nature has helped to encourage this attitude.

The Bible, however, draws a different picture of God. Whilst He is certainly full of compassion and mercy, He is also a king, a judge, a rock, a shield, a stronghold, a fortress and a warrior. These are symbols chiefly associated with war, fighting and conflict. In biblical times, wars were a frequent occurrence, and it was one of the king's roles to lead his troops into battle. In those days God was "a man's God",

and these images of fortitude and strength underline what we might call the masculine side of the divine nature. God is not only loving, He is strong, mighty in battle and a fortress as well. For the psalmist, God was not merely

a refuge to which to retreat, He was a fortress from which to launch attacks.

Make sure that you do not underrate the quality of strength in God's nature. In your worship, be confident to include reference to God's might. Reaffirm that God the Father, in His mighty power, raised Jesus Christ from the dead, and that today "the strong Son of God" reigns in splendour and sovereignty from His great high throne. Along with the millions described in Revelation 7:12, let us proclaim, "... Praise, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honour, power, and might belong to our God forever and ever! Amen!"

“... then will I ...”

Intercessors for NZ Jan. 2015

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14)

In this verse God promises to do three things, but not before his people themselves do four:

1. If God's people will humble themselves.

It's natural, though often disastrous, to run our own lives. We get good ideas, have our passions, know what we want to do, and know what we want others to do. But, sadly, many of us don't really consult God about His plan. God can be left out of our life choices. We need to humble ourselves before God, and acknowledge that without Him we don't have the wisdom, the knowledge, the power, or the authority to do anything of any consequence. Seeking Him and pleasing Him and having success are inseparable.

2. If God's people will pray.

One of the ways we humble ourselves is to cast ourselves before God in prayer. Prayer is an acknowledgement of our inability, contrasted with His ability. Prayer is an acknowledgement of our sinfulness and weakness, our lack of wisdom and knowledge, our need for His divine help in all things. Prayerlessness is one of the



greatest - if not the greatest - weakness in the lives of so many Christians today. We have forgotten how to wait on God. We have forgotten how to hear His voice speaking to us. We have ignored Him and gone our own way. In the extreme example of Matthew 21:12-13 His House of Prayer is described as a den of thieves! May God breathe afresh on us and stir us up to pray.

3. If God's people will seek His face.

The word “seek” implies time and effort. Do we really seek God's face, or are we too busy with other “more important things” to spend time reading God's Word and talking to Him? It's totally distressing that the world has crept into the Church. Do our own faces truly reflect the face of God, as a result of our having first sought His face? May we have a passionate desire to seek God, to spend time with Him, to listen to Him, to learn from Him and to share our lives with Him. Let us pray that ungodliness

and worldliness will be cleansed from our lives, so that we become more Christ-like in all we think, say and do.

4. If God's people will turn from their wicked ways.

Too often we don't see our own sins, for they really need to be revealed by the Holy Spirit. Rather than ask Him to show us our failings, we compare ourselves to other people, and conclude that we are not really all that bad. We tolerate the so-called “lesser sins” of our own greed, pride and self-centredness. If the world can't see any difference between Christians and non-Christians, or between Christians and people of other religions, why should they become followers of Jesus? We need to earnestly pray that the Holy Spirit will not only convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgement (John 16:8), but will also convict us of our sins, our unrighteousness and our failing to repent according to His standards.

Yes, it is hard. The call of God is clearly for us to go against our natural desires. The words of Jesus leave us in no doubt as to what we must do, “Those who love their own life will lose it; those who hate their own life in this world will keep it for life eternal.” (John 12:25) But, the blessings God promises are well worth the cost, “...then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

Awareness of Jesus

The following is based on an extract from Dr. Virkler's most enlightening and inspiring book “Dialogue with God”, the theme of which certainly needs to be the key theme of our life: cultivating a relationship with God. There is a wealth of invaluable ministry offered through Dr. Virkler's “Communion with God Ministries”, all of which can be read about at www.cwgministries.org

During the first few weeks of seeking inner stillness, I found that I could only become attuned to intuition first thing in the morning. Since rational thought had been such a powerful idol in my life, I found I had to carefully avoid becoming involved in analytical thinking before prayer, because I'd then be caught in it for the rest of the day. But if I began worshipping as soon as I awakened, sang through my shower, and maintained that communion until I reached my study, then I was able to stay spiritually attuned throughout my quiet time.

When I live on the surface, aware only of external circumstances and responding to them as though they were all of reality, I am torn apart. My personality, my view of life, and my spirit become fractured and out of



DR. MARK VIRKLER
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balance. But as I become still, and regain my consciousness of the Lord living within me, peace, wholeness and unity are restored to my being. Because Jesus lives in me, I find love, faith, power, and all the resources I need to have victory.

Becoming still is not something I “do”, it's being in touch with the Lord Jesus

Christ within. I do not struggle or force myself to be still. It's a letting go, a relaxing, a ceasing to strive. To be still is to experience Jesus Christ in this moment as the “I AM”. To live with the God of the now, I must not mourn the past nor worry about the future; I am to enjoy Christ as I let salvation come to this present point in time. I am sharing this particular moment with the One I love.

This Issue of Wholeness

We are pleased to say that the reason for our producing a combined August/November issue isn't due to lack of finance, but to a temporary factor affecting the logistics of our packing and posting procedures. Thank you once again to all those faithful supporters who pray for and who donate towards our publication. Without your contribution there would be no Wholeness.

“WHOLENESS”

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Praise the Lord!

The Daily Bible Verse

Dave Whitehead, Senior Pastor, GraceNYC.org

“Praise the Lord, my soul. Lord my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendour and majesty. The Lord wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters. He makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind. He makes winds his messengers, flames of fire his servants.” (Psalm 104:1-4)

This magnificent Psalm reminds us that no matter how big our problems look, the Lord God is much bigger. We can become obsessed with the challenge in front of us, and make it the focal point of all that we think and do. This is actually making the issue into a god. But when we remind ourselves that God created all that exists, including us, then we know that nothing is too difficult for our Heavenly Father. He is the most qualified being in the universe to guide us through, to strengthen us in, and to deliver us from our problems. Praise the Lord, my soul!

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