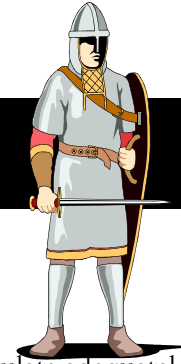


Wall of Prayer



January 26, 2009

Dear Faithful Prayer Warrior,

I sat down last week to write this letter and have spent many days trying to articulate adequately the wonder of God's mercy and grace toward us. As John writes, "LOOK, what kind of love is this that God would call us His children?"¹ I've read over and over the sweet assurance of God's care for us in the 23rd Psalm and continue to be humbled by the gentle way in which He leads, carries, feeds and guides us so that we will never lack the things we need to succeed in the life He has chosen for us. The first place He leads us is to REST. I had to read it again. He leads me to lie down in the fresh green tender grasses of spring-beside gentle deep waters where He brings my soul, my very being back to Him. He leads us straight to what is right and good because of His honor; to bring glory to Him.

He walks along side us through the thickest, darkest times in our lives which most often come without warning or preparation. Slowly, surely He brings a change, a newness, through the wrenching experience—and a special closeness to Him because we went through it together. He arranges a table for me providing just the right spiritual food I need right in front of my adversary who would love to see me starve or eat from his table. Our Shepherd honors us and strengthens us, enlarging our thoughts of Him until we are spilling over with the joy of His very presence.

Finally it says...Absolutely, for sure, beauty, excellence, goodness and the kindness that only God's family and closest friends are given shall run after, even chase, us every day of our lives. And we will live with HIM forever and ever.

In this illustration we are like sheep. I can relate so well to that helpless sheep, thinking I'm so strong and independent...looking at other pastures and wandering off only to feel the gentle hook of His staff bringing me back. I can see myself as a sheep, but as one who God calls (Hebrews 4:16) to come boldly (the Greek word implies companionship/fellowship with a freedom to say everything that is on my mind) before His throne of grace where I will obtain a special and immediate alleviation from the misery of my sin and find joy because my sins are forgiven—is more than I can comprehend. And even more astonishing is that the God of the universe tells us in Psalm 25:14, "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him." I melted when I learned that the Hebrew word used here for secret is *Sodh*² which means a couch, a cushion, a pillow, a friendly conversation among friends or a serious consultation. It is derived from the word *yasadh*³ which means to establish, lay a foundation, to build up. It carries the idea of fixing something firmly. Are we to conclude that God desires for us to come and sit with Him, to have "couch" time with Him? I don't want to be irreverent, but with all humility I believe that God wants us to fix ourselves on that couch and listen to Him. God wants to meet with us often, constantly. He made a way for us to do that when Christ rent the curtain and with His precious blood ushered us in to sit with Him as He pours Himself into us, building on this foundation, to make us more like Him; to make us useful in His kingdom.

May we never be so busy that we walk by that couch and miss the most important meeting of our day.

In Him,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan".

Susan Admire

¹ I John 3:1

² Warren Baker, The Complete Word Study Old Testament AMG publishers Chattanooga, TN 1994, p. 2344

³ Warren Baker, The Complete Word Study Old Testament AMG publishers Chattanooga, TN 1994, p. 2322