

Sermon on the Wall

This one came upon me rather suddenly, not surprising, but last weeks and this week's essay have great messages. Remember and trust were the underlying themes and with all the turmoil surrounding us these days, it is quite easy to lose our focus and get caught up and swept away.

I remember when I was still working, in my office, I kept a wall calendar, a desk calendar, and the alert calendar on my phone to stay on top of my schedule. I did everything but write it on my forehead. As I was praying Friday evening, I was asking the Lord how are we to keep in mind and remember who we are all the time? We all know that Sabbath keeping, prayer and Bible study are foundational elements of our growth but is there any additional "aids". As I looked around the living room and kitchen, the answer was quite clear. God's scriptures were plastered on all the walls around me. Decals instead of "post-it-notes" (if anyone still uses them) and Plaques and signs with the Word of God written on them. Keeping things in mind isn't always easy, especially if you're getting on in years as Chauncey and I are.

Deuteronomy 11:13-22- "And it will be, if you will hearken diligently to My commandments which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and to

serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, Then I will give the rain of your land in its due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain and your wine and your oil. And I will send grass in your fields for your livestock so that you may eat and be full.’ Take heed to yourselves that your heart may not be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods, and worship them, And the LORD’S wrath be kindled against you, and He shut up the heavens so that there will be no rain, and so that the land will not yield her fruit, and you perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD gives you. Therefore you shall lay up these My words in your hearts and in your souls, and bind them for a sign upon your hands so that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And you shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. And you shall write them upon the doorposts of your house, and upon your gates. So that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land which the LORD swore to give to your fathers, like the days of heaven above the earth. For **if** you shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you to do—to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him,”

We so often forget to trust in God and completely submit ourselves to His will and live His way of life, we drop our focus and are overcome by adversity and lose our

way in the storms. When we do this, we essentially tell God, “We’re not trusting you in this, this storm is just too devastating.”

Proverbs 3:1-6- “My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commandments; For they shall add length of days, and long life, and peace, to you. Do not let mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them upon the tablet of your heart; *And so you shall find favor* and good understanding in the sight of God and man. **Trust in the LORD with all your heart**, and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

God gives countless reassurances in His Word *if* we just trust in Him, He will deliver us from whatever we face. That word “if” is conditional in God’s Word. While He may love us unconditionally, *if* we want to grow and come through the trials we face, we must **DO** our part, 100%. His Commandments, Sabbaths and Holy Days are not multiple-choice options. It is not a list we can pick and choose from and expect life to be full of roses. **Psalm 91:1-5-** “He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in Whom I will trust.” Surely *He will deliver you* from the fowler’s trap and from the destroying pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge. His truth shall be your shield and buckler. You shall not be

afraid of the terror by night, nor for the arrow that flies by day,” This is always a test of our faith as God may not always deliver us in the direction or give us the solution we were hoping for. But we can know, whatever it may be, it will be His will and in our best interest.

As an example of this, I received a prayer request update this evening as some of you may have received also. I thought it on point so I'll include it in its entirety. It is from Denise Smith (CBCG);

“God is good All the time!

The next day after the prayer request, we got rain here in PA which helped to wash away the high pollen counts and I got a breath of fresh air. I thank God because He did indeed heal the eye infection and I did not need a doctor's visit for antibiotics which I would not have been able to afford.

Thanks to all the brethren for their prayers for me. I could feel it that they were praying for me and it uplifted and strengthened me, causing me to smile again while enduring this health trial and to send up many thanks to God for His loving-kindness in hearing us when we pray and answering according to His will. I am very thankful to have God directly involved in all of our lives and for having you

dear brothers and sisters in Christ on this journey together with me. We're truly in this together and I keep you all in my daily prayers.

Happy Sabbath to everyone!

With my love and hugs,

Denise”

In asking for a healing God gave her rain which cleared the pollen and the rest we just read! But we must reach out in faith.

When we face the trials and storms, do we quickly reach out in faith, do we pray and do we ask for prayer? Or do we retreat into the cave of despair? We know Elijah did and how did God speak to him? **1 Kings 19:12**- “And after the earthquake was a fire, *but* the LORD *was* not in the fire. And after the fire *was* a still, small voice.” **Psalms 46:10**- “Be still, and know that I am God! I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

We let the calamity of the storm redirect our focus from God and His Word and allow ourselves to drift into a “woe is me” attitude. We may have let the weeds of the world choke our garden for the most part of our lives but we expect God to

give us a banner crop in 10 minutes after baptism without keeping ALL of His Commandments! Good luck with that. If you're not doing the proper "gardening" with your faith don't be surprised if the "weeds" keep springing up.

There is no turning back for those who are baptized. We can't keep turning around to wallow in past sins. "But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt."- **Genesis 19:26 (Luke 17:32).**

When we're hit with crushing calamities, we should remember just Who we belong to. Start facing the storm with prayer, reach out for more prayer. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-19**- "Rejoice always! Pray unceasingly. Give thanks in everything, for this *is the* will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit." **Romans 12:9-16**- "*Let* love be without hypocrisy, abhorring that which is evil and cleaving to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned toward one another in brotherly love. *Let* each esteem the other more highly than himself. Be not slack in business. Be fervent in spirit. Be timely in serving. Be rejoicing in hope. ***Be patient in tribulation. Be steadfastly continuing in prayer.*** Contribute to the needs of the saints, and strive to be hospitable. Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep; Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high ambitions; rather, be accommodating with those of low estate. Do not be wise in your own eyes."

Another thing we tend to overlook is a quick self-check. Are we walking exactly as God tells us in His Word? Or are we “straddling the fence” with our faith? **2 Peter 2:22**- “But the *pronouncement found* in the true proverb has happened to them: The dog has returned to *eat* his own vomit; and *the* sow *that was* washed *has returned* to her wallowing place in *the filthy* mire.”

Proverbs 26:10-11- “The great *God* who formed all *things* both rewards the fool and rewards transgressors. As a dog returns to its vomit, *so* a fool returns to his own folly.” What did Jesus tell the adulteress woman in **John 8:10-11**, “And when Jesus lifted Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are your accusers? Did anyone condemn you?” And she said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you. **Go, and sin no more.**” Expecting God to fix us without doing our part according to His word is insanity. Albert Einstein said the definition of insanity “is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.”

When we feel that God has left us, looking at our walk of faith, we will find that we have left Him. We are forgiven our sins and we are to walk in the newness of Christ and sin no more. **Joshua 1:9**- “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage. Do not be afraid, neither be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is*

with you in all places where you go.” Always remember, God is always with us.

He will never leave or forsake us (**1 Kings 8:57, Hebrews 13:5**).

God knows we will continue to fail on occasion but the price for our forgiveness has been taken care of by the Blood of Jesus Christ.

When we set our hands to do something, do we give it to God first? I know for me the quickest way to mess up is to start a chore without praying first. **1 Corinthians 10:31-32**- “. Therefore, whether you eat, or you drink, or you do anything, do all things to the glory of God. Be without offense to both Jews and Greeks, and to the church of God;” God usually let’s me hit my thumb with a hammer to remind if I forget sometimes.

We must learn to trust in the Truth and God is Truth and we must worship Him in spirit and in truth (**John 4:24**).

I’m so glad Andrea posted all of the scriptures around the house. They are a great reminder and a “checklist” of some of the basics. If we keep these in our minds and in our hearts, it may not alleviate any trials or storms but it will give us peace and understanding and the faith we’ll need to press through. **Matthew 9:20-22**- “And behold, a woman who had been *afflicted* with a flow of blood *for* twelve years,

after coming behind *Him*, touched the hem of His garment. For she said within herself, “If only I shall touch His garment, I shall be healed.” But Jesus turned; and seeing the woman, He said to her, “Be of good courage, daughter; your faith has made you whole.” And from that hour the woman was healed.”

Hopefully the scriptures shared today will be a short “checklist” as a reminder that we belong to God and we are His children. If we love, trust and serve Him as we are commanded in **Deuteronomy 11:13**- “And it will be, if you will hearken diligently to My commandments which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul,” (**Matthew 22:37-38**), we will find our memory will sharpen dramatically.

God will remind us that no matter how big the storm is in front of us, it will never be bigger than His Power behind us. **Philippians 4:13**- “I can do all things through Christ, Who empowers me.” Amen.

