

NEW LIFE AFTER LOSSES!

By Mary Mayko

John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you; not as the world gives I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."



How do we handle life after we have suffered some tremendous loss? Our emotions often rage like a tempestuous storm over an ocean, stirring up waves and thrashing about any boat or ship in its path! Some storms takes days before they subside and the waters become peaceful again! Eventually the sun comes out and suddenly we can see those things hidden by the stormy clouds! God's peace returns to quiet our soul. His Promises begin to reassure us where just moments before it seemed all hope was gone!

Acts 27 tells us that Paul weathered a real *killer storm*! It may seem strange to us that Paul was in the very center of God's Will when the storm hit full force! Is it possible that when we are in the midst of loss or adversity that it does not necessarily mean we are out of God's Will? At times it seems the storm will never end, and it must have felt that way to the people who were on the same ship with Paul! That particular storm lasted fourteen days straight! Just imagine that! The ship Captain was prevented from reading the stars because of the darkness! He wondered if he had drifted off course!

When our storms seem to go on and on without a let up, we wonder where God is and when He plans on helping us! It is a struggle to get past our fears at times! Paul probably felt desperate at times, but as he fasted and prayed as he needed to hear from the LORD! The ship crew dumped their cargo overboard in an effort to lighten the load. What about us? During difficult times in our lives, we need to take a fresh look at our burdens and *see if it is time to unload some of our excess baggage!*

While Paul was seeking the LORD an angel came with a message that all would be safe if they obeyed God's Word! We probably aren't going to have an angel visit us, but we do have God's Word, as well as His Servants who preach and teach His messages! "Oh LORD! Help us stay in tune with Your Will for our lives! Open our hearts and minds to receive Your peace and comfort during our painful losses! Amen!"

The story of Paul and the ship in the storm goes on to tell us that ship actually broke apart and the people had to swim or grab some of the debris and ride it ashore! What an experience! Sometimes we feel everything of importance to us is simply gone from our lives, just as I am sure the folks on that ship felt when it began to break apart! Funny how the broken pieces were the means God used to bring them to safety! Paul had the assurance that God promised safety for all and not one person was lost! Paul took comfort in the knowledge that God was always with him no matter what was happening! Paul gave thanks to God even as the storm was raging! His hope gave courage to the others around him. There truly is *life after losses!*

"From the ashes of our losses You have brought us life anew, and show us there is a future as we walk along with You! Thank You Jesus, for Your comfort and care during our time of stress, for You bring us peace and courage as Your Name we truly bless!"

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“GOD’S HANDKERCHIEF”

By Mary Mayko

Ps.56:8a LB “You have collected all my tears and preserved them in a bottle. You have recorded every one in Your Book.”

Tears are flowing like rivers, soaking your pillow at night! There you are, tossing and turning all night long! When sleep does come, it is restless and full of disturbing dreams! Your heart is simply overwhelmed! What a sad and fearful thing to have your reputation attacked and doubts planted in the minds of others!

False accusations! You have just been accused of wrong doing! Your reputation is at stake! People you know meet you with a glare in their eye or turn away from you! You have been pronounced guilty without the facts being made known to them! Did the accuser misunderstand something you said or did? You know in your heart you have been falsely judged! You are innocent, yet the rumors fly!

Your heart cries out to the LORD! Sleep does not come easily! In the night seasons, the Lord reminds you of Psalm 56:3-5 NIV “When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, In God I trust. I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me? All day long they twist my words; they are always plotting to harm me.” The Lord reminds me that when I am afraid I can call upon His Name! He knows my heart and brings me comfort. Our prayers ascend into the heavens like a sweet perfume before our Lord!

The heart is quieting down now, as a renewal of scripture verses begin to flood your soul! Psalm 56:8a “You have collected all my tears and preserved them in a bottle. You have recorded every one in Your Book.” How amazing! The LORD collects our tears and saves them in a bottle! Why? I believe He turns all those tears into precious pearls! He keeps a record of our lives and writes all the details in His Book. He knows when we are treated unfairly and promises to take care of those charges in His proper time. Rom.8:33 “Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.”

When He wipes our tears with His handkerchief, it never gets wet! As He touches those tears they are turned into precious pearls and beautiful stones! Some day He will place all our jewels in a royal crown that we will lay at His feet! All our tears and sorrows will be turned into jewels of joy! Psalm 126:5-6 LB “Those who sow tears shall reap joy. Yes, they go out weeping, carrying seeds for sowing, and they return singing, carrying their sheaves.”

God is a Collector! Our tears in a bottle, and our prayers in golden vials!

Rev. 5:8b LB “The twenty four Elders fell down before the Lamb, each with a harp and golden vials filled with incense, the prayers of God’s people!



“TEARS AND TREASURES”

By Mary Mayko

**Tears in a bottle that our Lord calls His own,
He'll make into jewels that celebrate His throne.
For Heaven is filled with treasures so grand
He's making for us with His very own hand**

**So trust Him with your tears without any shame
And tell Him your sorrows as you call out His Name.
He listens intently to all our cries and comforts our soul
Until we come and rest in His presence, for that is our goal!**

**“Life's journey has seasons of sorrows as well as sunshine,
And many tears may fall today, breaking this heart of mine!
God wipes them with His handkerchief to comfort and ease my pain.
He strengthens my heart with joy and stops the falling rain!**

**We are reminded of Your Promises in our times of groaning,
Weeping only lasts the night and joy comes in the morning!
One day there will be no more sad tears or fearful cries,
For God will use His handkerchief to dry them from our eyes!**

**“Dear Lord, Thank You for being my comfort and defender!
Turn my tears into jewels of joy as I trust in You,
even in my times of fear and pain!
Amen!”**

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“THE SEEKER” or “THE SOUGHT FOR”

Rev. J K Golding



1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 “For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

“When you think of the month of September, what comes to mind?” This was the question I presented to a group of people as we sat around chatting. “Back to school” said a lady. “The start of really good surf fishing!” said a fellow. “The end of one season [summer] and the start of another” said another lady. “Harvest season, get it in, or lose it!” said another man.

I had been thinking along these lines, but in a different vein. I have been thinking about three great ANNUAL festivals of the Israelites. Each lasted a week.

The first was the Lord’s Passover. This Jewish festival commemorates their exodus from Egypt. It took place in the part of the year corresponding to our March and April. A special feature of it was the blood and its’ protection during the tenth plague in Egypt. [Exo.12:3-28] Note verse 7. “And they shall take the blood and strike it on the two side posts, and on the upper door post of the house, where in they shall eat it.”

This same protection is ours today, through the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

It is typical of the Lord’s death. [The Lord’s Supper]

He was a Lamb without blemish. 2 Peter 1:19.

He was slain at God’s appointed time. Exo.12:3 Acts 2:23

As you study Daniel’s vision of the seventy weeks in Daniel 10:20-27 and the four Gospels of the New Testament [chapters on the death and resurrection] you realize this feast was completely fulfilled in Jesus, His death, right down to the year, month and day as prophesied by Daniel.

The second great ANNUAL feast was the Feast of Pentecost. “And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the Sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering, seven Sabbaths shall be complete, even unto the morrow after the seven Sabbaths shall ye number FIFTY days, and ye shall offer a NEW meat offering unto the Lord.” Lev. 23:15-16

This feast was marked by the blowing of trumpets, no servile work was done, and the eating of leavened bread. The loaves used at Passover were unleavened. One was a

memorial of the bread hastily prepared at the time of departure from Egypt, while the other was a tribute of gratitude to God for their daily food in their NEW life in Him.

All this was totally fulfilled in Acts 2 in the coming of the Holy Spirit, to give power to these believers, as they were filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:4.

On this day, Peter stood up to preach, in so doing, he says: “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. **For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar, or even as many as the Lord our God shall call.**” Acts 2:38-39. This feast has been fulfilled to the letter and is being demonstrated daily world round.

This brings us to the last great ANNUAL feast- The Feast of Tabernacles. Like the other two it lasted a week, unlike the other two, IT HAS NOT BEEN FULFILLED! It began on the fifteen day of the month, corresponding to the end of our September, and beginning of October. It was observed as a Sabbath, and could only be CELEBRATED at the place of the Sanctuary, offerings being made on the altar by the worshipper. During the whole festival, the Jews were to dwell in booths erected on the flat roof of their houses, in the streets, or in the fields.

There were great triumphal processions, singing psalms, and crying “Hosanna!” meaning “Lord, we beseech Thee.” It was a season of great rejoicing. At a later period, the ceremony of drawing water from the pool on the last day, or on the eight day, we read this scene at Siloam in John 7:37 where it is called , “The great day of the feast”. Jesus makes it clear He’s fulfilling this thirst. [v.37-39]

This was a feast of ingathering, the vintage was over, the conclusion of the feasts. God told Moses, the reason for this feast would be: “That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.” [Lev.23:43] This feast, UNFULFILLED is believed by many students of the Word to be the rapture of the church.

In I Thessalonians 4, as Paul speaks of the Coming of the Lord, he makes it clear, this event is for the **Believer** only – “If we believe that Jesus died and rose again.” [v14] He goes on to say those that are dead in Christ shall rise first, then we that are alive- “For this we say unto you by the Word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the Coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep, For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first, then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” [vs. 15-17]

Such joy and rejoicing this thought brings to the Believer! He says in v.18 “Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” No matter what trial you are in- you have **comfort** in this hope!!

In closing, consider one more thought for September. It is the anniversary of 9-11. I believe every one of us remembers the moment we first heard or saw this event. [TV] Life has never been the same since that day, so many things have changed, including our thinking!

Now, think of the catastrophe the rapture will incur. Planes flying without a pilot! Endless numbers of vehicles traveling 70 miles an hour without a driver! Great ships with great numbers of crew missing! Children GONE everywhere! Thousands upon thousands of people- SIMPLY GONE!! The Great Harvest of souls GONE to be with Jesus! What will be said? How will the Media cover this one? I do not know, but I do know, the devil has a bag of tricks, and surely will come up with something very creative, and it will be anything but the TRUTH! He's the father of lies!!

Jesus spoke these words to those arguing with Him: "Ye are of your father the devil and the lust of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie; he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." [John 8:44]

Think for a moment, when did you last hear the word SIN in the media? You haven't- people with a drinking problem, smoking, or doing drugs- all have a disease!! Pre-martial sex, adultery, it's all a mistake, or poor judgment at the time, but not SIN!! Child pornography in general- LUST-no, it goes back to **childhood** in some fashion!

There is no REPENTANCE because "I have not SINNED!" It's all due to *some one* or *some circumstance!*" Yes, beloved, the media will find a way around the Rapture!

The question is this- will you be a SEEKER- looking for someone, or will you be one that is SOUGHT FOR- because you are **GONE in the Rapture?**

As you walk with Him- **look up! Your Redemption draweth nigh!**

Rev. J Kehl Golding