



“ARE YOU ON TOP OF THINGS?”

By Mary Mayko

Ps.91:4 “He shall cover thee with his feathers and under his wings shall thou trust: is truth shall be thy shield and buckler.”

This is a New Year! A New Beginning! This is the year I’m really going to stay on top of things! Do we face life realistically or do we turn quickly to the Lord for the wisdom we need to handle whatever comes our way?

When we are faced with difficulties and oppressions in life, we often hear the phrase “I just *have* to get on top of this problem!” This usually means things are way out of control from our viewpoint! Another saying is, “Under these circumstances, I guess I am doing okay”. This also reveals that “out of control” feeling! When this happens, fear tries to take over! We wonder how will all this end, what will the results be?

Does the Lord really want us to get on top of everything? It seems we want to do anything we can to get away from the hard things in our lives. Is this God’s Promise? A careful look at the Word shows us time and again, the answer is not *around* the problem, it is not *being on top of it*, and we are *not to be stuck underneath* the problem, so just what it is He expects of us? What we really need is to be under His protection! Under His wings, we can rest under His covering!

There is a wonderful and revealing statement made in Isaiah 43:2

“When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up- the flames will not consume you.” Look again! “*When you go through*” “*Great troubles*” “*Difficulties*” “*Oppression*”! The Promise in this Passage is that we *will go through* these kinds of problems in our lives. He did not say we could go over them, be under them, or go around them! More than the knowledge that this is part of life is the Promise that *He will be with us!* He does not expect us to handle the heartaches alone!

In Isaiah 43:1 the Lord tells us not to be afraid, yet that seems to be the first reaction many have in the midst of dreadful situations. We need to get our head and heart in line with His Promises! Joshua was a man who understood what it was to face many difficult days as he walked with Moses through the Wilderness all those forty years! When the twelve spies were sent out, only Joshua and Caleb believed the Lord would keep His Promise to bring

them into the good land! When people walk in fear, they not only cause themselves sorrow, but they hinder those who trust the Lord to bring them through safely! In Joshua 1 we see the Lord reaffirming His Promises to Joshua. Jos.1:9 “Have I not commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goes.”

Was Joshua going to walk around or go over the top of all the problems of following God’s commands? Certainly not! But He had the assurance of God’s Presence in what he was facing! What about us? We say we trust in the Lord with all our heart. We can quote many verses containing the promises of God! Have we fully believed He will go with us through our times of oppressions and hardships? Have we said to ourselves, “What time I am afraid, I will trust in Him?” (Ps.56:3) To say we are never afraid of anything or at anytime is not being truthful! There are dangers out there! But when we *are* afraid, call upon His Name! He will walk us through those fearsome times!

“Amid fears and confusion, and awesome grief, The Light of the Lord brings sweet relief! When dangers surround us and fill our hearts with fear, God’s Presence brings peace as His Promises are made quite clear!”

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“GODS’ PEACE”

By Mary Mayko

Isaiah 26:3 NIV “You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.”

We often wonder why we don’t seem to have an ongoing peace with the Lord! We need His peace especially when going through difficult times in our lives. Do we really understand the difference between the *peace of God* and *peace with God*?

We have peace *with* God when we become His child! What a comfort to know that God Almighty is *our Heavenly Father!* How awesome! How wonderful! But does this mean we are always peaceful or even feeling of peace in our soul? No, for we have been given the gift of emotions so we can feel peace, joy, love, anger, sadness lonely and the whole range of feelings that are a part of our daily life!

If we fail to understand that peace *of* God can fluctuate with what is happening in our lives, we can be confused and upset with the Lord! This kind of peace is found in Phil.4:7 LB “If you do this you will experience God’s peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus.”

Phil.4:9 LB “Keep putting into practice all you have learned from me and saw me doing, and the God of peace will be with you.”

The Scriptures *preceding* the two above gives us practical instruction. “*IF we do this!*” When strife and problems arise in our lives, the Word gives us guidelines to help us get our thoughts and hearts under control so God’s peace can operate with us. When this happens, it often astounds us as well as others around us! When a crisis arises, or sudden sickness or injury, if we turn to the Lord in prayer for our needs, a quiet sense of His Presence can sweep over our hearts and minds and brings that peace that can only be explained as His work in our lives!

Ever been awake half the night with a concern that just keeps rolling and replaying in your mind? Those thoughts can keep you in turmoil unless you actively decide to exchange them with memory verses that can help put your mind at ease! (Isa.26:3) How important it is for us to have the Word of God in our hearts and minds! If we have not, we have disobeyed the command to hide His Word in our hearts! We have cheated ourselves out of the peace He has available to those who have read and meditated on His Word! Why not take advantage of His provisions for our peace?

Isa. 26:12 LB “Lord, grant us peace, for all we have and are has come fromYou.”
“Ah, sweet peace! It is not the absence of trouble, but it is the assurance of God’s provision and presence in our time need. Since we have *peace with God* as His child, we can rest in His promise that He will give us His peace in spite of the trials we face!”

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**“IMMANUEL –
STAY CLOSE IN
TWENTY TEN”
ALL BELIEVERS -
LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN!**

Rev. J Kehl Golding 2010

A brand New Year! A brand new slate! What will you record for 2010? Will our Nation continue its' Anti-Christ slide to nowhere? If we thought 2009 was a ride - wait until 2010 gets underway!

A Nation - its' people and its leaders cannot continue to reject God and expect His blessing! AND WE DO REJECT HIM IN WORD AND DEED!! Jesus made it real clear and simple in Matthew 12:30 “He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.”

This Month I want to address “BELIEVERS”, Followers of Jesus - His disciples!! Know for a fact, our surroundings - the Nation in which we live, does effect us; economically, by what we buy and sell, morality - especially in our school system, the Entertainment world, the unemployment around us, its' taxation and much, much more! All of these or any one of them puts great pressure on Believers, to one degree or another. I do not mean they can cause us to lose our salvation, but they can rob us of peace, joy, and our way of life!

Keep that in mind as you answer the next questions. Over the Christmas season, in Bible readings, the singing of Carols, or in conversation, how many times did the word IMMANUEL cross your lips? As you spoke or sang the word in its context, how much thought did you give it? Consider some of the following uses of the word that we are so familiar with.

Matthew 1:22-23 “Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophets saying, ‘Behold a virgin shall be with child, and bring forth a Son, and they shall call His name IMMANUEL, which being interpreted is “God is with us”

And that, of course is a direct quote of Isaiah 7:14 and I am going to repeat it, because we can't get it deep enough in our hearts and mind: “Therefore - the Lord Himself shall you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call His name IMMANUEL.”

How many times did you sing or listen to “O Little Town of Bethlehem”? “O Holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray, Cast out our sin and enter in; Be born in us today!

We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell, O come to us, abide with us, Our LORD EMMANUEL”!! Phillips Brooks 1835-1893 [The spelling of Immanuel can be different in Olde English]

Perhaps you stood in church singing: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!” Did you really hear the closing lines of verse 1? “Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!! Joyful, all ye Nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies; With the angels hosts proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem! Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the new born King.” Verse 2 “Christ by Highest HEAV’N ADORED, CHRIST THE EVERLASTING LORD; Come, desire of Nations, come, Fix in us thy humble home, VEILED IN FLESH the GODHEAD SEE; HAIL TH’ INCARNATE DEITY, Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our EMMANUEL. Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the new born King!” Charles Wesley 1707- 1788

Perhaps you aren’t familiar with an old Latin 12th century carol that was translated by John Neale in the 1800’s. It is not heard very much but contains great truth: “O come, O come, EMMANUEL And ransom cap’tive ISRAEL, That mourns in lonely Exile here, Until the Son of God APPEAR. Rejoice! Rejoice! EMMANUEL, Shall come to thee, O ISRAEL!”

By now you’re saying; “It’s January, why are you talking Christmas Carols? Christmas is over!! THAT’S EXACTLY WHY I AM DOING IT!! By now the nativity set is gone and packed for another year. The tree is a thing of the past- each little ornament out of sight. The whole Christmas season of joy and cheer, is out of sight, out of mind.

But, IMMANUEL is NOT packed away, gone, out of sight! He is with us, and no matter what 2010 brings into our life, HE is GOD WITH US!!

David didn’t see or read of the birth of IMMANUEL, but by faith he understood: “Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me: the Lord will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O Lord endureth forever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.” Psalm 138:7-8

Again, he wrote: “Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy Presence? If I ascend up into Heaven, thou art there: If I make my bed in hell, behold thou art there, If I take the wings of the mourning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.” Psalm 139:7-10

Immanuel Himself has promised us in Hebrews 13:5 “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee”

He’ll be with you and I, in 2010 and forever more - ENJOY HIS PRESENCE no matter what comes along!

Have a blessed and joyous New Year!!

Rev. J Kehl Golding

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