



“AWESOME GOD!”

Mary Mayko

“Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.” Psalm 33:8 KJV

“The LORD blesses each nation that worships only Him. He blesses His chosen ones. The LORD looks at the world from His throne in heaven, and He watches us all. The LORD gave us each a mind and nothing we can do can be hidden from Him.” Psalm 33:12-14 CEV

“Awesome!” That word is heard by this generation over and over again these days! Anything that strikes a person, especially the younger ones, as great or enjoyable, uses that word *awesome* to describe their feeling about it. A few years back, a song writer wrote about our *Awesome God* with reverent feelings that stirred our souls as we sang it. The word *awe* in the Bible describes the writer’s overwhelming amazement as he experienced the Presence and Holiness of our God!

This *holy fear of God* was the result of God’s interaction with man at particular moments of time down through the ages. When He created Adam, it was the beginning of a divine fellowship between God and man. The LORD still desires that awesome fellowship with His people today! We are beginning a fresh new year. Hopefully you have included our *Awesome God* in your plans as we anticipate these new beginnings in our lives. God has His plan for us! Will we seek Him for it?

“For I know the thoughts I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you an expected* end. {*hope in your latter end} Then shall ye call upon me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when you search for me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:11-13 KJV

Many times since the day years ago, Christ came into my heart as my Savior, I have experienced some truly awesome moments! At times, I have had to stand or bow in utter amazement, that the God of the Universe would take time to bestow on me some awesome sense of His presence! O! The wonders of the LORD! In prayers, the feeling that He was and is right there, listening, and encouraging me, His helping me to understand something of importance. Other times, as I worshipped or praised the LORD,

or was just going about with my ordinary duties, a *sudden special moment* would strike me as being totally ***awesome***, *would occur!*

We all need to reflect on His Holy Love for His people and bow before Him in reverence! Do we conscientiously honor our ***AWESOME GOD*** and recall our own *awesome moments while basking in His love?* I pray you will this year!

Enjoy His Blessings! Happy New Year!

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“WAITING!”
Mary Mayko

“For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness.”
Galatians 5:5

Most of us find waiting in lines or for people to do something for us, a little upsetting at times! I get a little *antsy* when delays seem to interfere with my plans! *Not a good thing!* I try to slow down, be more patient, but then I realize some folks are just *geared that way!* That makes it harder for those of us in that category to remain peaceful and relax while we wait for anything to happen.

How many times in my life have I heard words such as; “*Just be patient!*” “*Would you wait a few minutes, please?*” “*Don’t worry, it will come in due time!*” {***When I was younger, wondered when “Due Time” would occur, and just what did that mean, anyway!***} Many phrases like that, indicated I was not waiting peacefully for whatever the next step was!

What does *waiting mean to me, or to you, for that matter?* Does it mean to be idle, doing nothing? Does it mean that you are quietly confident that it *will come* and you are at peace with God about it? If so, you can be busy at a required task or need while joyfully expecting the anticipated.

Perhaps you, too, have found yourself somewhat frustrated or anxious about your life at times. Have you eve played the game of “*What if’s?*” You know the one, it builds up negative scenes in your mind that plays over and over until you are filled with dread rather than joy! You find yourself *on edge* and ready to most *anything* to change the situation! Unless we are careful, we can unjustly interfere or lose patience with others! Extra caution is needed at times like these, as failure to wait on the LORD can produce all kinds of disastrous results!

The Bible records many incidents where people failed to wait upon the Lord! Maybe they, like us, lost our patience with God, or thought He had not heard their cry for help! The enemy would tell us God doesn’t really care about those burdens that are dragging us

down! Genesis 16 records the story of Sarah, who had a *sure promise of a son from God!* That should have aided her in waiting patiently for that to happen! Since it did not occur according to *her expectations*, she decided to *help God out by giving her maid Hagar to her husband Abraham to produce a son!*

The result of that action was many broken hearts! When Sarah did bear the promised son Isaac, She sent Hagar and Ishmael away, Abraham lost his first born son and mourned for he knew he would never see him again! The conflicts between the descendants of Ishmael and Isaac are directly connected with Sarah's impatience and lack of trust and understanding God's promise to her! This is only one example of man's failure to wait on God and His promises and timing!

So many times we see the wicked prospering, seemingly without any visible troubles or punishments of their evil doings! The past few years revealed the greed and lack of conscience in many business deals that created financial losses for multitudes! We would love to see justice right now in these cases! But there *will be a Day of Judgment* for them unless they repent and turn to the LORD for forgiveness! God *will* avenge in His own time! The LORD entreats us to hold our peace and wait on Him!

"Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him: fret not thyself because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked devices to pass." Psalm 37:7 KJV

"Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the LORD."

What does it mean to wait on the LORD? It means we trust His word, we have hope, we have real confidence in His promises and all things will be fulfilled in His time, not when, or if *we demand it!* In the meanwhile we continue on with obedience unto the LORD. When we are convinced our footsteps are directed by the LORD, we will understand delays are not always denials, there may be other people or circumstances involved, and God is working in someone else's life through all this as well as our own!

"My friends, be glad, even if you have a lot of trouble. You know that you learn to endure by having your faith tested. But you must learn to endure everything, so you will be completely mature and not lacking in anything." James 1:2-4 CEV

"Be ye also patient, establish your hearts, for the Coming of the LORD draws nigh." James 5:8 KJV



“CLEAN AND WHITE”
Rev. J. Kehl Golding

I opened the door, and there it was! A *Winter Wonderland!* Snow had fallen all night, it rested on everything. As far as the eye could see, all had that snow white sparkle, and it was, as yet, untouched by man or beast!

My *“little girl”* had an emergency this early morning hour, and even her little poodle prints had not marred it yet. The squirrels were not up and about yet, so they had not touched it. In an hour or so, the big dogs next door would be all over it, kicking up leaves, dirt, etc. *But right now all was clean and white- untouched and heavy laden pine trees were bent low, adding to the beauty of the scene.*

I stand there thinking how this resembles January first. A whole new year, completely untouched, no dirty spots, no tracks, an opportunity once again to mark it as we choose. We will touch lives, we will impact others, and we will influence their thinking and actions. We will embrace readings, TV programs, internet sites and information, and there will be people that influence our thinking and conduct.

Paul had visited, preached and won many to Christ in Corinth. In his second letter to them concerning their many problems, he reminded them in 3:2 *“Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, KNOWN AND READ OF ALL MEN.”* That is just as true today! You and I may be the only Gospel read by some folks. That makes our witness very important. Our language, conduct and dress code all take on a deeper meaning when we desire not to be ashamed of by Jesus Christ or ourselves!

The Holy Spirit lives within the believer’s heart and enables then to do all things through Christ. Look at 2 Corinthians 3:6 *“Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit; for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.”* The major theme of the Bible is LIBERTY! Christ sets us free and we are not under bondage of sin anymore. We are not bound to the culture of the world we live in. Jesus put it this way;

“If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: BUT because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you OUT of the world, therefore the world hateth you.” John 15:19 We are IN the world, but not OF the world. [meaning its’ culture]

“But as he which hath called your is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; [Greek/ living] Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.” 1 Peter 1:15-16 Remember hearing from your elders? *“Actions speak louder than words!”* Isn’t it true, *people watch us* far more than they listen to us? Paul knew this, and wrote the following:

“With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg you my brothers, as an act of intelligent worship, to give Him your bodies as a living sacrifice, consecrated to Him, and acceptable to Him. Don’t let the world around you squeeze into its’ own mold, but let God remake you so your whole attitude of mind is changed. Thus you will prove in practice that the will of God’s good is acceptable to Him and perfect.” Romans 12:1-2 J.B. Phillips translation

In my years of studying for the ministry, I had a teacher that would remind us over and over; *“Don’t be greatly impressed by a person’s preaching, or gestures in the pulpit, but rather by how the Gospel has touched or transformed their life. What were the fruits from their experience with Christ?”*

How could a *preacher* or anyone give us something that has not touched them? **AND**, if it has touched them, the words they speak, the marks they leave, will proclaim the redeeming grace of Jesus Christ to all who are watching or listening.

Just as a beautiful winter wonderland is destroyed in a matter of minutes by some animals running about in it, or the sun coming out with its’ warmth, or a harsh wind blowing it all about, so we can ruin our testimony for Christ in the New Year. *How?* By some impure or unkind words, and/or deeds, viewing ungodly features on TV and in magazines and books on the internet, or indulging in conversations, jokes, and pastimes that should not be a part of a Christian’s life!

How can I make this New Year different, when people, situations, and circumstances are averse to my liking? How can I cope with the dark times?

Paul gives us the answer: {and who had more adverse times than he?}

In I Thessalonians 5:16-18 we read: *“Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”*

In Christ Jesus, whatever occurs this year in our life, has already come because He has allowed it ~ to work together with all else for my good, because He desires the best for each one of us. *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28*

Regardless of circumstances, pain and failures this coming year, keep your testimony beautiful in Christ Jesus, make it count for Him!

Have a Blessed New Year!!
Rev. J. Kehl Golding

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