

## “A THING AS LOVELY AS A TREE”

By Rev. J. K. Golding

**Psalm 1:1-3 “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful: But his delight is in the law of the Lord; And in His law doeth he meditate both day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”**



Here we are, in our favorite parking space at the Laundromat! It is our favorite spot for two reasons. I'll give you the second one first.

From this vantage point, *“my little girl”* can see each of her friends, and bark a greeting to them. She is already watching the cat on the second floor balcony sunning himself and when he turns over, she'll let him know she is here!

But, in the meantime her eye is on the ground floor apartment door. She is watching for her friend to come out for his morning walk, *we are a bit early!!* But she's not to be defeated! Squirrels are running about and need *“to be told off, as only a Toy Poodle can do!”* *Just watching her brings joy to my heart,* but I love it here for another reason!

About sixty feet in front of the car, on the lawn is a lone Dogwood tree. It is a mature one, more than two stories high, and of course now in all it's summer beauty. Its' leaves are still a bright green and they have not yet reached that *“tired hot summer”* look that comes at the end of August when a lot of yellow comes to them.

Right now the nest that's in her upper branches seems to be empty. It was very busy a couple of weeks ago when we were here. The builder of that nest knew her business, for it's been there for the past couple of years! In a few months the tree will be clothed in her brilliant Fall reds, a blaze of glory for all to appreciate. Then in a short time she will stand there bare, naked, stripped of all her foliage, for the world to see!

Lightning or a storm of some sort did damage down the upper side of her, leaving a long ugly scar. It is well covered with leaves right now, but unsightly in the winter. The nest is at the bottom of that scar. The neighborhood cats have sharpened their claws on her lower trunk and left long digs in her bark. *Boy! That hurt!* However, she just stands there, allowing the squirrels to play in her branches and all to enjoy her shade.

Next Spring her buds will pop open and she'll be adorned in white glory, fit for a king! Then she'll leaf out for all to enjoy her shade. Folks will once again sit on the bench beneath her branches.

My point is, she just stands there being a tree! Hot, cold, rain or shine, storms or fair weather. She is still a tree for all to enjoy or partake of her blessings.

### ***Is this what Isaiah had in mind?***

**Isaiah 61:1-4** “The spirit of the LORD God is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound. To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; *that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified. And they shall build up the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.*”

Beloved, I think of this so often. We are God’s child and partake of His blessings, and in turn have much to give others, His love, wisdom, peace, and joy. It really doesn’t matter what is happening in our world. We are His child, and have much to bless others with.

How many times do you hear, “their child died or some other loved one and they are mad at God!” They stopped serving Him, going to church, or something of that nature. A catastrophe occurs and they say,

“How could a God of love allow that?”

“Where’s God in this financial crisis?”

All bad events are “*an act of God*” in the minds of so many people!

### ***Not so the tree! It just keeps on being a tree!!***

**“Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD and whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and spreadeth out her roots by the river and shall not see (fear) when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and neither shall cease from yielding fruit.” Jer.17:7-8**

How about you? Is your commitment deep enough, real enough to just keep on being His child? Will you keep on giving His blessings in your corner of His world???

**Rev. J Kehl Golding**



## **“TO EVERY GENERATION!”**

By Mary Mayko

Psalm 135:13 NIV “Your Name, O LORD, endures forever, your renown, O LORD, through all generations.”

Psalm 78:1-4 NIV “O my people hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old- what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, His power, and the wonders He has done.”

We need to teach the wonders of God to every generation! The Psalmist said he would not hide what God has done from the children. Today’s generation truly needs to hear what the LORD has done and what His promises are for the future! When people fail to pass on knowledge of the Living God, morals fail, crime will rise, selfishness will prevail and people will do whatever is right in their own eyes! [Judges 17:6]

While there are many dedicated Believers today in America, we are seeing the results of a generation of our society who failed to teach God’s ways at home or in our schools our children about the righteousness and wonders of God! Prayer and when the Bible was removed from public schools it took away the godly influence of past generations. The general public tends to scorn the truth of God today!

The philosopher George Santayana said “Those who have no knowledge of history are condemned to repeat it.” Psalm 78 is a teaching (Maskil) Psalm of Israel’s past history to that generation. This Maskil Psalm means to make one wise and to have success or skill and to be intelligent! Isn’t that still desirable today? Psalm 78 teaches us truth about our God. As we read it, we are reminded to recall the incredible ways God has interacted and influenced His people!

Psalms were often sung as a way to help the younger generations memorize God's involvement and faithfulness in their lives. How can we do that with our children today? Most of them love music and singing and churches have used that method of teaching down through the years. Music is a very important teaching tool to reach our generation for Christ. Every song has some kind of message in it. What are our children listening to today? When we sing Scriptures and God's wonders, it passes on inspiring information to them!

Many try to escape their past or ancestors, but in all reality, we cannot disconnect from either! Though Christ, our sins are forgiven! We can recall many negative aspects of what we have done and be determined not to let that history repeat itself in our lives! We do not like to tell others about our "closet skeletons", but we see that God never hid Israel's sins, and indeed, exposed them to give them a chance to repent! He already knows all about us, *so in confessing to Him*, we find a cleansing relief and His peace! When we are forgiven, we can sing the songs of God's wonders!

2 Tim. 3:15 KJV "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

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## “GOD’S 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 from You.”**

**“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 peace in spite of the trials we face!”**

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