

From the Pastor's Corner

There is a poem written by Helen Steiner Rice, entitled, "Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled." The words are:

*Whenever I am lonely and lost in deep despair,
I bundle all my troubles up and go to God in prayer.
I tell him I am heartsick and lost and lonely too,
that my mind is deeply burdened and I don't know what to do.
But I know He stilled the tempest and calmed the angry sea,
so I humbly ask if in His love He'll do the same for me.
And then I just keep quiet, and think only thoughts of peace,
and if I abide in stillness, my restless murmurings cease.*

Many times when we go through trials and tribulations in life, we are tempted to ask, "does God care?" And the more severe the trial, the more we are inclined to answer the question in the negative. Odd, isn't it? We are more certain of the love of God when all is well, but when storm clouds arise, we question His love and concern for us. In this short simple poem, there are some things that I find instructive.

First, go to God. Friends are nice, but go to God. Family is nice, but go to God. Church family is wonderful to have, but go to God. Unfortunately God is often the last one that we turn to but the first one that we blame. Go to God in prayer.

Second, tell God how you feel. God can handle our anger, frustration, doubts, fears, and even our questions. If the god to whom you pray is unavailable, or unwilling to help, perhaps your god is too small. Let me introduce you to my God. He is the almighty sovereign Lord of the universe, and yet He is closer than your next breath.

Third, remember what He has done. Trials and tribulations in the life of the child of God are not a new thing. No wonder our ancestors would say, "He brought us from a mighty long way!" You ought to ask yourself, where would I be, had it not been for the Lord god on my side. Remember what God has done for you. Read God's word and understand that what God has done in the past God is able to do right now. God hears. God strengthens. God comforts. God cares. He really does care for His children.

Finally, after I have gone to God in prayer, after I have told God how I felt, after I thought about and remembered what God has done in the past, I rest in Him and in the peace that only He can provide. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27 NIV)

In His Service,

Pastor Alick
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