

## 06-12-19 Wednesday Musing

Not long ago I purchased a new flashlight... you've seen the adds on TV for those indestructible, extremely bright flashlights... well I decided I'd get one... I promptly took it out into my yard at night and began shining it around everywhere... and I do believe I could signal a jetliner at 30,000 feet... It is so bright... and the light pattern is adjustable... ranging from a small pattern of light and extending to illuminate my entire back yard... Later when I had need for my flashlight and got it out to use... it reminded me of God's grace in my life... At first... in my BC life (my life Before Christ ... before I invited Christ to live in my heart) I lived in darkness... oh I knew who God was... who Jesus was... and believed that they were real... but I remained in darkness until I invited Jesus to live within me... after walking blindly through many dark valleys I decided I'd rather live life in the light of Christ than in the darkness of selfishness and sin.

Recently I read a quote from Barbara Brown Taylor, and author of several best-selling books... "New life starts in the dark. Whether it is a seed in the ground, a baby in the womb, or Jesus in the tomb, it starts in the dark." At the moment of our salvation... we walk out of the darkness into the light that is our relationship with God... we go from knowing He exists to growing in the knowledge of His word... Jesus tells us in John 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

Just as a tomato seed starts its life being buried in the ground... it sprouts... and with nutrition and water it starts to grow... and slowly.... slowly it grows into a healthy mature plant... blooms form and soon small fruit appears on its branches... as we water and feed the plant the fruit grows larger and starts to turn a rich red color filled with new seeds to start the process over again...if it gets the proper treatment... being planted in the rich fertile soil... dying and rebirth will occur... but we must watch out for the weeds that try to choke our tender young plants... If we are not careful, they will take over our garden and hinder our little plants from reaching maturity. In Luke 8:14-15 we find "14 The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. 15 But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop."

In order to reach maturity we... ourselves... must set our minds on Christ... 1 Peter 2:2-3 tells us "2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good." and 2 Peter 1:5-8 adds encouragement "5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." Psalm 92:12-14 "12 The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; 13 planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God. 14 They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green," 1 Corinthians 13:10-12 "10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put

the ways of childhood behind me. 12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known." Philippians 1:9-11 "9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God."

Jesus is the light in the darkness... He is the vine.... He is the refreshing waters... He is the Way... the Truth... and the Life... the gate by which we enter eternity... no one will enter the gates of heaven except through Him...

As we lift our prayers to God this week let us remember the Family of Jeanne Williams, Family of Mary Jane Pettigrew, Family of Pat Sellars, Faye Strickland, Millie Fraser, Frances Morgan, Selma Simpson, Harvey Sharpe, Donna Freeman. And friends: Michael Clark, Nancy Toney, Connie Papadis, Daughter of Evelyn Rey—Carol Mitchell, Family of Barbara Smith, Jeanette Hudson—mother of Connie Collins Please remember the families as well as the person listed. This week's sermon title is "Building or Demolition?". The scripture will be read from Matthew 7:21-28 and Galatians 5:13-26.

Happening around the church: the Board of Finance meets June 18<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. and the Board of Deacons meet June 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the church conference room.

Be the Light!

Joan ☺

**And I am sure of this, that he  
who began a good work in  
you will bring it to completion  
at the day of Jesus Christ.**

Philippians 1:6

