

05-22-19 Wednesday Musing

Did you know that God has boundaries? I'll bet that got your attention... We've always heard that our God is omnipotent... omniscient... and omnipresent... All powerful... all knowing... and always present everywhere... well... let's explore that thought for a moment... God does not sin... boundary... God does not cause natural disaster to happen... boundary... God does not heal all sick people... boundary.... Not all people's sins are forgiven... Boundary... And these boundaries... self-imposed by God on Himself, are placed there out of love... for you... for us... So... More confused now? Let's go a little deeper... God does not sin... sin was introduced into the world when Adam and Eve decided to disobey God's command and eat of the forbidden fruit... God did not do that... man did... God limits His power to control everything to allow us to exercise our free will... He desires a genuine relationship with each and every one of us... and a genuine relationship is not possible if God simply makes all of the decisions... God, our Heavenly Father. like any good parent could not condone disobedience... therefore Adam and Eve and thus the human race was condemned as was the earth and all that dwells on it... this is where the natural disaster quandary comes in... Suffering carries a message of mystery... 1 Timothy 3:16 tells us **"Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:"** There is a mystery to tragedies and sickness... and no one on earth truly knows all the answers... and we may never know until God explains all things to us... Suffering and tragedies are not punishment for sin... In this fallen world... when man fell, all of nature fell... it is impossible for sinful man to live in a perfect environment of paradise... so all of nature was afflicted... We suffer, and the world suffers... because we are human and part of a structure of processes and a physical environment where things go wrong. God can...many times does... intervene in harm from natural disasters... but He does not cause them... Just as He does not cause sickness... but He can and does miraculously heal some people... some He allows the privilege of joining Him in heaven ending their suffering and pain. Often someone's prayers for healing result in death... but death is not the end for a child of God... Sometimes for us... self-centered humans that we are... death seems a punishment... but in reality it is what we were born to do...Not one of us are going to leave this world alive in body... alive in spirit... well that begins here... on earth... by the grace of God... through the love and hope extended to us through repentance and belief in the Son of a loving God, Jesus Christ. God confronts every person with his own neediness at some point in their life... but God never forces anyone to accept the healing and wholeness He offers... He does not move beyond the boundaries that He placed on Himself in the gift of free will. But also... He does not abandon us in our time of need... He is always walking beside us as we try to make sense of this confusing world. God knows all about each situation we face in life... **"Jesus wept"** is famous as the shortest verse in the Bible (**John 11:35**), but to me the real power of that two-word passage from the story of Lazarus is the reassurance that Jesus understands what life is like for us...Jesus has not abandoned you... nor will He abandon you in the future! God's promise is true: **"Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you"** (**Isaiah 46:4**).

How, then, should you deal with life's challenges? First, deal with them with faith—faith that God loves you, faith that He will be with you, faith that even as your strength fades, He'll help you face each day with peace. Then deal with them with hope—hope that someday all the limitations of this life will be over... and you will be with Christ in Heaven forever.

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In addition, deal with this challenge with thankfulness—thankfulness for your family... for your friends and brothers and sisters in Christ... thankfulness for each day God gives you... thankfulness that you still have a measure of health. I often think of the Apostle Paul's words: "**Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances**" (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18).

As we go to the Lord in prayer this week we need to remember: Family of Pat Sellars, Faye Strickland, Millie Fraser, Frances Morgan, Selma Simpson, Jeanne Williams, Mary Jane Pettigrew, Harvey Sharpe, Donna Freeman, and friends: Nancy Toney, Connie Papadis, Daughter of Evelyn Rey—Carol Mitchell, Family of Barbara Smith, Jeanette Hudson—mother of Connie Collins, Family of Dolly Watson, Sarah Wilson—Niece of Mike Smith.

Happening around the church: May 28th - 6:30 pm Board of Deacons , June 2nd - Graduate Recognition Sunday, June 4th - 6pm - Supper Club - at Valero's on Front Street, June 5th - Annual Bingo Night - Fun times!!

The Sermon title for Sunday is "*OUR WORTH IS FOUND IN GOD*" and the scripture will be read from John 10:1-11 and Matthew 5:13-16.

May God's love bring you peace,

Joan ☺

