

## **God is Good...All of the time!**

Here we are more than midway through October and I haven't sent an "Inspired Message". Things have been busy. It seems the last 4 weeks were filled with appointments, meetings, work and a new Women's Group at church. (By the way if you're a woman you should have gotten an invitation to join us. We are in person & on Zoom.) Having said all of that, I actually got some time to myself last weekend.

Yes indeed, I had a wonderful 14 hours overnight up at our camp. Many of you know that my family shares a private lot up in the mountains between Gettysburg and Chambersburg. That particular piece of land has been in the family for decades. There are now five generations who have occupied the camp at one time or another. Campers, cabins, and a barn roof pavilion barely fill the space we have going down the slope. Tents pop up several times of year as well. We have no running water, but we do have electric and some even get a cell phone signal. So, we aren't totally "roughing it". Oh, and an outhouse. I know, it may not be your cup of tea, but here is why it connects me to the Light...

As I sit in total solitude, I can close my eyes, hear the fire crackle, the wind in the trees as it comes up the mountain and the sounds from years past. My grandparents, my mom, my dad, brothers, nieces, nephews, my children, my grandchildren, aunts, uncles, cousins, and many other loved ones... they are all there. I close my eyes and there is my mom sitting on her little camper porch in a fuzzy robe with a cup of coffee. My dad with my husband laughing and joking with my brothers as they constructed the barn roof pavilion. My grandparents with their little slide on truck camper. My own children, much younger, as they explored the woods to discover all manner of bug and reptile. Family members and beloved friends who have passed on. Sitting in silence, I hear them. As the air moves through the trees, I feel them. Memories that are palpable. I think to myself, God is good all the time!

It's easy to think that when all is right in our lives. But, when we lose a loved one, how can that be good? How can watching someone deteriorate from some worldly disease or malady be good? How can getting a phone call telling you a seemingly healthy person you hold dear suddenly died of a heart attack be good? How can losing a baby that you didn't get to meet be good?

Short answer? Those things are not good. They are not good for us anyway. We grieve, we feel alone, we feel angry, we feel confused, we have questions. None of it is good for us as emotional beings.

Long answer? God is good because we had those people in our lives. Who ever it may be that you've lost, they are still in your heart. No matter how long they were in your life. Be it for minutes or for decades, they still have a piece of your heart. That seems little consolation in the short term. But God doesn't do things in the short term. He is in it for the long haul.

When a human being is formed in the womb, they are now a part of their mother. Should that child never draw breath, they are still a part of that mother's heart. How can that ever be explained? A bright young teenager with his or her future all laid out is hit by a drunk driver. "Why?" we ask. A parent is stricken with Alzheimer's. As we watch them vanish slowly before our eyes, we wonder

how God can let this suffering continue. Well, there are some things we will just never understand. Things that are beyond our comprehension.

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6*

In my opinion, and I'm just a regular person, is that what we suffer through we are to use to comfort others with. The only way one person can comfort another it to have experienced the same (or similar) pain. That is how God is good. That's how He uses our pain. No, I don't think He inflicts us; human frailties and free will are what inflicts us. Your mother didn't make you fall, but she is there to kiss the booboo. And, now you warn others to be careful. That's how God looks at us, His children. He doesn't make us fall, but He's there to be our comforter.

*For thus says the Lord: ... As one whom his mother comforts, So I will comfort you; And you shall be comforted in Jerusalem." Isaiah 66:12a, 13*

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ. Corinthians 1:3-5*

Let me bring this all back to where I started. Memories. He gave us the gift of recall. God is good because he allows us to have our memories. Sometimes there are things we'd rather forget. Nonetheless, we have the ability to remember. For me, the place that brings back so many is at camp. (Although not at the same spot, my parents, brothers and I have been camping on the same mountain since I was 5 or so. Thus, my memories go back even farther.)

As I sit by the fire pit and watch the last few embers glow, the feeling of utter peace washes over me. You see, not only do I "feel" the memories, I feel God.

Find that place to feel your memories and you'll feel God as well! You can then understand how God is good all of the time!

In His service,



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