

A Window For Women

God's Word and Norma's Notes

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Thanksgiving – An Attitude of Gratitude

By **NORMA A. WHITCOMB, M.S.**

Whitcomb Ministries, Inc.

“This *is* the day the LORD has made;
We will rejoice and be glad in it” (Ps. 118:24).

“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!” (Phil. 4:4).

As I sit down at my computer this morning, I am going to bare my heart as God directs, trusting that He will bless your heart as He has mine during these past weeks while I have been on a spiritual roller coaster.

Too many times we hide our feelings, our emotions and our thoughts because we are afraid that people will judge our spiritual tenor if they find out. If we first go to others instead of the Lord, we have gone to the wrong source. God’s Word assures us that He has the answer. My many years of walking with Him assure me of that also. We must evaluate our motives. Is it pride that keeps us from baring our heart, or are we taking our need to our heavenly Father because we know that there is no one who understands just how we feel? Because we are convinced that God has the answers? That God will help us through?

As I write this, the last three weeks have been different from any that I have ever experienced. My husband has been in the emergency room three times and has had surgery for an abdominal aortic aneurysm. I stayed with him in the hospital for five nights and my weariness affected my emotions. I knew that my Father was where He always is – on His throne, caring for me, aware of my need, and that He would restore me in His own perfect time and way. Each morning I told Him that I was claiming His promise, “As your days, *so shall your strength be*” (Deut. 33:25). There is a verse on our kitchen door that confronts me every time I go to our garage – “Be still,

and know that I *am* God” (Ps. 46:10). That was all I could do and that was all that I needed to do.

“Delight yourself also in the LORD,
And He shall give you the desires of your heart” (Ps. 37:4).

My desire, my desperate need, was joyful peace. In the meantime, I clung to fact, not feeling. I knew He would restore me in His own perfect time. And He did! Oh, how great is our God! “He restores my soul” (Ps. 23:3).

Why am I telling this to you? Perhaps you need to be restored, encouraged or assured. Maybe your nights are dark and long or your days and nights flow into one long muddle. Your bones ache from weariness, your heart is downcast or you are discouraged and in despair. Do not allow yourself to stay there. Read the Word whether you understand it or not. Pray to your heavenly Father whether you feel like it or not – even if you think He is not listening. He has not left His throne; He has not forgotten you. He is ready and waiting to work His perfect work in you.

Believe His promise that He “will never leave you nor forsake you” (Heb. 13:5). He will restore you to gladness and rejoicing in His own perfect time and way. You will have a new song to sing and a strong testimony of victory that only He can give. Other troubled ones may need to hear you.

Praise Him for His caring, mighty power. He is on His throne!

High and Lofty Thoughts

By NORMA A. WHITCOMB, M.S.

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“For thus says the High and Lofty One
Who inhabits eternity, whose name *is* Holy:
‘I dwell in the high and holy *place*,
With him *who* has a contrite and humble spirit,
To revive the spirit of the humble,
And to revive the heart of the contrite ones’” (Isa. 57:15).

It was while my first husband, Robert, and I were missionaries in the Philippines with the China Inland Mission (later renamed Overseas Missionary Fellowship) that we received this letter from our director, J. Oswald Sanders. It is rich and needed today. I want to share it with you.

“This spacious text which expresses the attitudes that are compatible with the greatness of our God, tells us four things about Him. His transcendence: ‘The high and lofty One.’ What had surprised Isaiah was the elevation of His throne, infinitely higher than any earthly throne. He learned that God is greater than our highest conception of Him, greater than all majesty. ‘He is ABOVE all,’ said John. ‘God OVER all,’ said Paul. His holiness: ‘Whose name is Holy,’ and

His name is His nature. His throne is the blazing centre of all moral purity. His is a holiness that dazzles and blinds and prostrates. Perhaps the reason that we are not dazzled is that cataracts may be growing over the eyes of our soul. His holiness should awe us, and will certainly reveal the tawdriness of our highest attainments in that realm. His crystal purity is in startling contrast to our dinginess. The glory of His absolute holiness, meditated upon and presented to our hearts with power by the Holy Spirit, cannot but make us humble and contrite. His eternity: ‘That inhabiteth eternity’ ‘I fill heaven and earth.’ These claims are infinitely more intelligible to us than to any previous generation – a universe vast beyond all imagining.

A recent authority wrote: ‘The stars and planets exceed in number all grains of sand on all seashores.’ How insignificant is man! How great is God! Man, a prisoner of time and space. God, the uncreated Master of eternity. His condescension: Our God, Who is great beyond all imagining, deigns to take up His abode in a humble and contrite heart. ‘God has two thrones,’ said the old Puritan, ‘one in the highest heaven and one in the humblest heart.’ The Infinite condescends to become the intimate, terrible and yet tender. The immensity of His stoop staggers the imagination but warms the heart. Let us love, and sing, and wonder that the Transcendent God who fills eternity makes Himself small enough to fill my heart when it is humble and contrite. ‘Contrite’ means ‘pulverized, shattered’ – self-reliance broken. ‘Humble’ means that all illusions about self are gone. Are we longing to see God work? He tells us the type through whom He delights to achieve His purposes. ‘TO THIS MAN will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.’ Lord make me a man [woman] like that!

Why does ‘the high and lofty One’ dwell in the humble and contrite heart? ‘To revive.’ Is this our need? Here is the panacea.”*

Have you been smitten by this self-portrait and self-revelation of God put before you, as I have been? Have you lost yourself “in wonder, love, and praise” – and thanksgiving? Thanks for responding.

*Scripture within this quotation taken from the King James Version. Emphasis added.

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