

Get Off That Street!

by Bernadette Love

Over the last few days I have come across several people who have the same concern...they can't understand why it seems that God has left them alone. There are lost dreams, lost jobs, lost homes and lost lives. There is trouble all around and it just doesn't appear that God is listening. It brought back a lot of memories for me, listening to the present woes of other people. I was reminded of the time in my life when I wondered if my prayers were ever going to be answered. All of my dreams were crumbling around me and I had no idea how to stop the landslide. In a matter of months I lost my business, my home and everything in it to a fire (with no insurance), my husband moved in with another woman and my car was totaled by a youngster who was driving without a license and obviously had not heard about insurance. While waiting for the doctor to tell me that I was going to survive the crash, I was informed that I had a severe case of anemia. He prescribed a transfusion, which I couldn't get without health insurance or a large amount of iron tablets which I couldn't afford. I thought that I was at the end of my ropes. I looked for work and couldn't find it. With the threat of eviction at my doorstep and depression looming over me, I had no idea what to do or where to turn.

I wondered daily why all of this was happening to me. Now I knew that other people had stuff going on that probably would have made my stuff look like a walk in the park. I wasn't dying from cancer (I had been delivered from that though I had forgotten), I could still walk around (although I had nowhere to go), and I could still dress myself (even if I had ballooned up two sizes), and I had lost my dad to a heart attack (but I knew that he was in a better place.) I was angry because I couldn't understand what was taking God so long to deliver me from my mess. I rationalized that I was good Christian, I paid my tithes when I could, I wasn't sleeping around, I was a good person...so why wasn't He answering my prayers? Why were people all around me being blessed and I wasn't? What more did I have to do? I shook my fist at God and demanded an answer. Why? Why? Why? Don't you love me? I asked.

I wallowed in self pity for longer than I really should have. Then one day, I heard a voice tell me, enough is enough. I had to pick up my Bible and remind myself of a few things. Let me share some of the things that I found, just in case you find yourself going round and round on this street called Despair. See, it's important that you get off this street as soon as possible. Don't even think about building a home on this street. See, if you stay on this street too long, you won't have the strength or the courage to leave. Many people have died on this street. Born again Christians, whose names are written in the Lambs Book of Life, have died in despair and despondency. The Word says that we don't have to live here. We have the promises of God, we don't have to stay here.

But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19. You remember this one don't you? Or how about: ***The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.*** Psalm 23:1. And surely you remember this one: ***Be careful for***

nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4: 6-7

Please remember one thing, this life is not about what we have or what we can acquire. Take the focus off what you don't have, thank God for what you do have, and realize that this life is not about you. Understand that your purpose on this earth as a Believer is to win souls for the Kingdom. God says to seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness and all these things will be added unto you (my paraphrased version, but you get my meaning). Take your sights off of you and be about our Fathers business and watch what He will do for you. When I learned what my purpose was, and offered myself to God for His use, He gave me something that I had never had, PEACE. While He is working it out for my good, He has given me JOY. While I am busy doing His stuff, He is preparing my place...and I won't have to wait until I get on the other side to enjoy it. God will take care of everything that concerns you. This care includes your bills, your home, your food, your transportation, your children, your spouse, your job, your health....need I go on?

And, by the way, God did show me why I went through the things I went through. Let me give you the abbreviated version. He had to show me that He is God. You see I had made my house, my business and even my husband, my god. I had forgotten to keep Him first in my life and my affections. He gave me a test so that I would have a testimony to share. He gave me a message out of my mess. He taught me how to trust Him for everything and not to trust myself. You see, as long as I had money and all the things that money can buy, it was easy to trust Him. But, could I trust Him when I was broke, homeless and forced to walk and ride the bus? Could I trust Him when I was alone and lonely and humiliated? Could I trust Him when I for real, didn't know where my next meal was coming from? Glory be to God...I found out that I can! And so can you!!!