

If I didn't have God – 6/11/2016

“When I awake, I am still with You.” (Ps.139:18b)

Beloved in the Lord,

As I woke up on Monday morning my first conscious thought was: *“Thank you Lord that You are with me.”* Then for the next few minutes I began to ponder the question what would I do if I didn't have God? I was overcome with a strange feeling for a brief while. I began to jot down what came to my mind. I saw that if I didn't have I God I would not have peace; I would not have joy; I would not have a friend who is with me always; I would not have the comforting direction and guidance of The Holy Spirit; I would have no hope; I would not experience forgiveness for my sin; I would not have eternal life; I would not have God's promises.

What an awful life that would be, what a horrible existence. Thank God that I do have God. I can say along with David: ***“When I awake, I am still with You.”*** The great thing about this is that it will never change. Once you are in Christ, you are in Christ forever. This Word is true forever. Even when you fall asleep in death, when you awake you will see Jesus there with you. You will wake from death and say: *“When I awake, I am still with You Hallelujah!”*

The more I reflect upon this truth, the more joy and thanksgiving it produces within me. God is good. He is always there. He is with me when I am awake and when I am asleep. He will be with me as I die, and when I awake to rise to eternal life. He will be with me forever and there is absolutely nothing that can change that or separate me from Him, from His eternal love.

How good is that?

Then I began to think about the countless number of people who awoke on Monday without God in their consciousness. They rolled out of bed and headed into the day without God's assurance and presence and blessing. They headed out hopeless and helpless, with little true joy or peace, without the hope of eternal life. I couldn't imagine what that must be like, but sadly that is how so many live their life every day.

Solomon described a godless life as vanity. It is empty and meaningless. Someone once said that to live without Christ is to exist, not live. That is awful, but true, and even more awful is the truth that a life without Christ leads to eternal death, eternal existence without hope. It is hell. It is called the second death, where a person exists in solitary confinement in total darkness, without Christ forever. No escape.

Jesus came into this world to save us from the second death. He died upon the cross of Calvary, He shed His precious Blood, to pay our sin debt in full so that we could live with Him here and in eternity.

Jesus taught:

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” (Jn.10:10)

When we are in Christ Jesus, then we live in faith and we have an abundant life.

David expressed it so well in Psalm 23:

***“The Lord is my shepherd,
I shall not want.***

***² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside quiet waters.***

***³ He restores my soul;
He guides me in the paths of righteousness
For His name’s sake.***

***⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.***

***⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You have anointed my head with oil;
My cup overflows.***

***⁶ Surely goodness and loving-kindness will follow me all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.***

Just think, if you don’t have Jesus, then this Psalm is not your testimony, it does not apply to you. You cannot say: ***“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.”***

It is only when you place your trust in Jesus, that you can be sure that God will supply all of your needs. He does and He will, both physical and spiritual. Paul wrote:

***“And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”
(Phil.4:19)***

Without Jesus you do not know where the green pastures are and you cannot get to the still waters that refresh the soul and spirit. Jesus is the true Bread of Life and He is The true Living Water. Without Jesus you are feeding on rubbish that has no nutritional value for your soul. You are drinking contaminated water. Everything that the world has to offer apart from Jesus is fake, it is empty and ultimately futile. Without Jesus your soul can get no true refreshment and with time you wither and become dry and unfruitful. On the other hand with Jesus you are constantly renewed and refreshed. We read:

***“Though youths grow weary and tired,
And vigorous young men stumble badly,
³¹ Yet those who wait for the Lord
Will gain new strength;
They will mount up with wings like eagles,
They will run and not get tired,
They will walk and not become weary.”
(Is.40:30-31)***

Without Jesus, what do you do when you walk in the valley of the shadow of death? All of us have to go through the valleys from time to time. Life is not lived on the mountain tops all the time. Jesus said, that in this world we have trouble. That is a fact. All of us have pain and heartache and loss. Without Jesus you have no real help nor hope. Without Jesus you have that stark statement: In the world you have trouble. Oh, but if you have Jesus then the verse doesn't end there. He said: ***“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”(Jn.16:33)***

You see if you have Jesus, then there is a light at the end of the dark valley. You can be courageous and not lose hope if you trust in Him. He is the Good Shepherd and He has overcome the world, sin and Satan and death. He is with you always. You are never alone. With Jesus – ALL WILL BE WELL!

If you didn't have Jesus then you would have to fear your enemies, but with Him you have security. He is greater than any adversary. The Bible tells us: ***“You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.” (1 John 4:4)***

God The Holy Spirit abides in the heart of every believer and He is greater than Satan Himself. That is why if we resist him, (the Devil) then he must flee. He can only operate where we let him.

If we didn't have Jesus then our head would not be anointed with oil. Oil is a type of The Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit refreshes us, revitalises us, renews us. He puts good and pure and holy thoughts into our mind.

If we didn't have Jesus then our cup would not overflow with blessing. But with Jesus, we find that the more we use His blessing to bless others, the more our cup is filled and overflows. God's reservoirs never run dry. His love flows freely and eternally.

David writes: ***“Surely goodness and loving-kindness will follow me all the days of my life,..”***

Without Jesus I would not know God's mercy. The one who does not accept Jesus in this life, the one who rejects His loving kindness here, will later meet Him as the righteous judge. That is why we need to open our hearts to Him in this life. Jesus taught:

***"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.¹⁷ For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.¹⁸ He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."* (John 3:16-18)**

The one who believes is no longer under condemnation, but has passed from death into life. The one who does not believe remains under condemnation. The penalty is eternal death.

Finally if I didn't have Jesus I could not say with David: ***"I shall dwell in the House of The Lord forever."***

Jesus has prepared a place in His Father's House for those who believe in Him.

You see, everything has been provided for us in Jesus. Without Jesus you have nothing. So the question is do you have Jesus? Can you say with David: ***"When I awake I am still with you."***

If you cannot, then today, right now, is the time to change that. Jesus is waiting for you with outstretched arms. Come to Him in faith.

If you already are in Christ, then what? Psalm 116 gives us the answer:

***"What shall I render to the Lord
For all His benefits toward me?
¹³ I shall lift up the cup of salvation
And call upon the name of the Lord.
¹⁴ I shall pay my vows to the Lord,
Oh may it be in the presence of all His people."* (Ps.116:12-14)**

What can we give to the Lord? Thanksgiving. Thank Him often and always, for all things. Thank you Lord; thank you Lord; thank You Lord!
Amen.

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All Bible quotations taken from New American Standard Bible.***