

This newsletter is early and off-schedule. It's also hastily written and unedited, but I feel an urgency to get it to you today.

This morning I received an email that brought me to my knees in tears. My friend, our God is so overwhelmingly and amazingly faithful. He is so good to us and He goes so far beyond our wildest hopes and dreams. Only He has the ability to change our lives and the lives of others.

That is what I saw today, a life changed. And as I was overwhelmed by God's great faithfulness, I was also desperately ashamed of how unfaithful I am. I'm ashamed of how many times I choose my pleasures and desires over God's will. I am ashamed of how many times I choose to be impatient or use hurtful words instead of putting myself aside and loving others. I am ashamed of how often I am displeased with my life or situation instead of thanking God for this life He tailor-made for me. I am ashamed of the many, many times I look in the mirror and see fat and ugly instead of God's beautiful creation. I am ashamed that in pride I try to look important to those around me when I know I should seek the praise of God and not men. I am ashamed that I worry about what others think of me instead of knowing that only God's opinion of me matters.

I am ashamed because I am so utterly faithless. I fall so short of any mark of righteousness or holiness or even goodness that I don't deserve to speak even a single word to God. There is nothing in me that He should bless me or look upon me with favor.

I feel like a sham, a fraud; there is no reason for God to bless me or use me...

...and yet...

...somehow, somehow, He loves me. And even as I type this, He reaches down to the depth of my soul and redeems me. He restores peace in the core of my being, whispering words of love to me, "I AM, and I AM enough."

It's never been me, it never will be me. I am not enough. Even if I give my entire life to Him - every second and thought and action devoted to Him – it would not be enough. Only He is enough.

And His enough is more than enough. His enough saves us and brings us into everlasting life with Him, to a joy that never ends and a hope that never fades.

Today we remember the Last Supper, when Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples, knowing that He would be betrayed after the supper and handed over for crucifixion. He knew even His beloved disciple Peter would fall short and deny Him.

Tomorrow, Good Friday, we remember Jesus' death. That day of death and darkness is our day, my friend. Death is ours to suffer, not Christ's. He had no sin; we are the ones who fall so miserably short and have sinned. But our gracious, faithful, and loving God - our God who is more than enough – died in our place.

But Good Friday is not where God wants us to live. God wants us to live in Resurrection Sunday. You see, even death had no power over Jesus. He did not stay dead. He was resurrected in His body. He walked around and talked to people. And then, He went to His throne in Heaven.

He did all this because we are not enough. He did this because only He is enough. He did all this because though we are faithless, He is faithful.

I (or you) will never be enough. But I will always be His, and that is more than enough.

Will you let Him be enough for you?

Where is Your Home?

Last time I shared a story about Shirley Neel's life and how her great faith in Christ affected so many. Today I share the story of her death and pray that it affects you.

Up to the Friday before her death, Shirley was determined to live. She had battled a rare cancer for years and was willing to keep fighting. Friday, as she wavered in and out of awareness, she suddenly became fearful, saying that Satan had a grip on her leg and wouldn't let go. Her children gathered around her and reminded her of the promises of Christ, but she was still uncertain about Satan's grip on her.

Then suddenly, on this overcast Friday, the sun broke through the clouds and streamed into her hospital window. Shirley looked to the window and became peaceful. She told her family she was ready to go. In a single moment, this valiant fighter stopped fighting, not with resignation, with complete peace.

I believe Shirley saw where she was going in that moment. Her faithful Lord revealed her home to her and when she saw what He had to show her, she was ready to go. She knew that heaven was real, that it was where she was going, and she was ready to be there. She was only 57, her youngest child only in 8th grade, yet her family found great beauty, peace and hope in her death. Her family knows, without a doubt, where Shirley lives now.

Do you know that heaven is real, or do you doubt?

Do you know with absolute certainty that heaven is where you are going, or do you doubt?

Our home, as believers in Christ, is heaven. Our faith in Jesus Christ guarantees this. When we believe in our heart and confess with our mouth that, "Jesus is Lord," we are sealed with His Holy Spirit as a guarantee of our inheritance - a guarantee from our God, who is absolutely unable to break a promise.

This knowledge – this *fact* – should make us live differently. If we believe Heaven is real, and if we know with absolute certainty that we are headed there, it should change how we live.

Philippians 3:19-21 describes first the view of a non-Christian and then the view of a Christian: "Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."

Where is your citizenship? Where is your mind focused?

Christ has come, He has risen, and He will come again. Do you eagerly await His coming? Do you live like you are a citizen of heaven, or do you live like this earth is your home?

This life on earth is not all we have, my friend. It is but a sliver of time in eternity. The best is yet to come. Know that. Believe that. Let it change your heart. Live each day in obedience to God, giving Him everything you've got. If we suffer here, if we are poor here, if we lose everything here, it doesn't matter. Our life, our citizenship, is in heaven. Our hope is in Christ.



Dig Deeper

Sit silently with the Lord today. Wonder about His painful crucifixion and His glorious resurrection. Open your Bible and read John 14. Each day read more in John, asking God to speak to your heart as you finish the book.

God's peace and blessings to you - Jennifer

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