

"Forget Not" (Psalm 103)

It is easy to enter into the land of forgetfulness. Here in Florida, it's been hot for so long we've forgotten what "cool" is. Perhaps you've been in a season of illness for so long you've forgotten what it's like to feel good. Maybe the opposite has happened - you've had it easy for such a long time you've forgotten how hard life can be for others.

It happens spiritually - we get busy, careless, proud, successful - and forget God "from Whom all blessings flow." Psalm 103 is a call to shake off our spiritual apathy, our mental drowsiness, our emotional gloom, remember all His "benefits" and bless Him with "all that is within us." No mere lip service will do. No temporary emotional gush is enough. No half-hearted praise will cut it. "All that is within me" - heart, mind, will, strength, reason, imagination, memory - is the only reasonable response (Ro 12:1). How do we justly worship the "All" of God - "forget none of His benefits" - with anything less than the "all" in us?

David's return to remembrance stirs up a consciousness of the Covenant Love of God - love that initiates and finishes, love that is merciful and gracious, love that is perfect and free. David recognizes some of the benefits of God's covenant love. For starters, the love of God gives gifts. Gifts of pardon and forgiveness (vv 3,10,12). Gifts of healing (v3). Gifts of redemption (v4). Gifts of compassion (v4). Gifts that fully satisfy our deepest desires (v5). Then, he remembers that the Love of God rights wrongs (v6). As an Intercessor and a Warrior, His love gets the final word, overcoming all that is against us and joining us to Himself. Finally, He recalls the everlasting nature of God's Love (v17). Eternal, infinite, boundless - God continues to secure and supply every benefit for our salvation forever.

The "all" of our every need is covered by the "All" of God's perfect love. With that awareness, the only logical response is to have "all that is within me bless His Holy name!" How? Certainly by giving thanks and receiving the "All" of God's love - Jesus Christ! Yet, to have "all" that is within me bless God, it must be given away. We are to freely give gifts - of forgiveness and healing, of redemption and compassion - to "all" who need them. We are to step in the gaps and right wrongs - interceding and standing up for the oppressed. We are to be constant and consistent in our love for others - "all" others. Then, we will bless God and others with "all" that He has placed within us!



Praise Reports & Prayer Requests

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GREETINGS



CALENDAR



A few weeks ago Ella and I were sitting in the middle of our living room floor with all five of our grandchildren (ages 3 and under). Ella said, "How did we do this?" (We had five children 3 and under!)

Well, we did it the same way we do everything else - by God's grace! And it is amazing, isn't it? That little scene reminded us of God's ability to provide what we need when we need it. Right now, thank God, we do not need the grace to live with five children 3 and under! (They all went home in a few hours - bless His Holy Name!)

I'm not sure where many of you are in this journey, but I am sure of this - His grace is sufficient for us. He knows what we need when we need it. I know, our thinkers and feelers do not always corroborate that - but His Spirit will. Descend from soul to spirit, ascend from "below" to "above the live" - however you like to say it - and find His adequacy, abide in His supply, rest in His promise... and discover that He is enough!

SEPTEMBER

2,9,23 CCF
11 Alachua Study
14-21 Chama, NM (386-418-0913)
25 Ocala Study
28-30 Binghamton, NY (607-625-4612)

OCTOBER

5-6 Vero Beach, FL (772-563-0430)
17-19 Panama City, FL (850-348-3292)

NOVEMBER

7-10 Baton Rouge, LA (225-769-8844)

PRAISE & PRAYER

-  For all the benefits of God's Love
-  For brothers and sisters who freely share
-  For discernment in giving away God's gifts
-  For living in the "All" of God

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