

The Plumbline

Scriptures to use for Searching your Soul

Edifying the Body of Christ (*Eph. 4.10-16*)

July, 2010

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Amo 7:7 Thus he shewed me: and, behold, the Lord stood upon a wall [made] by a plumbline, with a plumbline in his hand.

How is it with your soul?

Persecution comes in various ways, but it can make us stronger in the Lord. We can become angry or bitter and allow Satan to defeat us, or we can love Jesus so much that we are able to rejoice "with exceeding joy" for the privilege of being partakers of His sufferings. I Thessalonians 5:18 makes it clear that the Lord is in control of all that happens to us: "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." Other passages also teach this: II Timothy 3:12, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." Philippians 1:29, "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake." I Peter 4:16, "Yet if [any man suffer] as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf."

Plumbline: I Peter 4:13

But rejoice, inasmuch as ye shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

LORD JESUS, help us to obey your command to rejoice in trials and persecutions and to glean from them that which will make us strong in faith, love and trust. Help us always to live godly lives that we need not be ashamed but rejoice in our being counted worthy to suffer for You. Amen.

Perhaps there needs to be some soul searching as King David prayed:

Psa 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

Psa 139:24 And see if [there be any] wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31)

Walking in the Light

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Rom 10:17 So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

My husband has been with the Lord over six years, but I will always remember something he said to me many years ago, something that has encouraged me in difficult times:

I never want to do anything to hinder you in obeying the Lord. God has called you to the ministry; always be faithful to obey Him no matter what you face.

Over the years, others have encouraged me, simple statements, but bringing life. Words such as "keep the faith" or "I'm praying for you" come from those who walk this way also. They are words that let you know others are walking with you as a member of the Body of Christ. It has strengthened my determination not to give up, but to stand trusting the Lord when I do not feel His presence.

When the opportunity arises and we speak encouraging words to a brother or sister in Christ, Satan is quick to say that nothing was accomplished, that the individual was not touched, that it was a waste of time and "you just looked foolish."

In reality, your words may be exactly what that person needs when situations get rough and opposition and persecutions come. Our words can be life-giving, the boost needed to help that person's faith become strong and take them through to victory.

A little recognized but vital part of the ministry is an on-going one-on-one work of the Holy Spirit through individual members of the Body of Christ, something everyone is called to do. We need always to encourage others to walk on with the Lord at all costs until we can say with the Apostle Paul, "**none of these things move me.**"

Psa 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.