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Oh, I implore you to turn to the Lord in your discouragement, in your grief, that you may know the joy of the Lord. Nehemiah wrote that the joy of the Lord is our strength. Read Nehemiah, Chapter Eight. Read it with your heart, and "Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look into His face."

Neh 8:6 And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with *[their]* faces to the ground.

Neh 8:10 Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for *[this]* day *[is]* holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

## Do you know the Joy of the Lord?

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*Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ*

*Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).*

## Mighty in the Word

of the  
Lord  
Jesus Christ

For **the preaching of the cross** is to them that perish foolishness;  
But unto us which are saved **it is the power of God**" (1 Cor. 1.18).

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

The Wise Still Seek Him

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## And He Was Taken Up into Heaven

### By A Whirlwind?

A man discouraged, lacking in trust of the Lord God Almighty, his eyes taken off of the Lord, hides in a cave - and then is taken up into heaven? By a whirlwind? He is not judged and then chastened? The Lord God chooses not to punish this man? He then meets another man whom the Lord uses - after that he is blessed by the first man? The second man says, "I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me"?

Hear what the first man has to say to the Lord:

1Ki 19:14 And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: **because**

- 1) the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant,
  - 2) thrown down thine altars, and
  - 3) slain thy prophets with the sword;
- and I, *[even]* **I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.**

How many of us who are endeavoring to walk on with the Lord God Almighty in Christ Jesus feel somewhat like the first man in the midst of what is going on in this nation; yes, this nation, but in the world also? What has happened to this nation is also throughout the world. People are dying, suffering, feeling like the first man who said, "I only, am left; and *"they"* seek my life, to take it away."

This is an appropriate feeling for today with those who are dying because of what has been sent into each country that people will die. Are some, perhaps most, feeling they could be the next one to be sent to a hospital and placed on a ventilator - only to die there without being able to see a family member again? What about the grief that person experiences, the aloneness they feel knowing no family member can see them again - as well as the grave illness that has come upon them?

Satan is alive and his strength grows, as it has all through the ages. Satan is the thief who comes to kill, steal, and destroy as we read in John 10.10.

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *[it]* more abundantly.

Satan came "to steal, and to kill, and to destroy" God's chosen vessel, His righteous prophet, Elijah. He came to discourage Elijah, to cause Elijah to look down, and believe himself to be all alone. I wonder how many of us who know the Lord God Almighty in Christ Jesus by the Holy Spirit - feel alone, discouraged, and find

ourselves sinking in the mire that the enemy has put before our next step, hoping that our eyes have been taken off of Jesus that we, indeed, will take the next step into a deeper mire - out of which we will not be able to take another step.

The hymn, "Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus" is one we must begin to sing in our hearts until we, like the Shepherds, see the glory of the Lord - in the midst of the sin that doth so easily beset us, in the midst of the darkness, in the midst of feeling so alone and forgotten in these days that lie before us.

How dark it must have been for Perpetua in the third century who was imprisoned because of her love for the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ. Her father begged her to deny the Lord Jesus Christ that she might live. Even she must have felt so alone when her family turned against her, pleading with her to deny the Lord so she would not have to be sent to the arena to die. And, yet, she chose the Lord knowing the glory of the Lord and the glorious place to which she would soon be going. There are more than we can even begin to imagine who have offered up their lives for their love for the Master, He Who gave His life a ransom for all who seek Him.

In the midst of the darkness that has come upon us in these days which lie before us, and shall grow much darker, we must *Turn our eyes upon Jesus. We must look full into His wonderful face that the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace (a hymn).*

2Pe 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

Let us not grow weary in these days that lie before us. The Lord God is on His throne, and knows what it is you need in these days of being isolated, in these days of wondering what tomorrow may bring - or perhaps what the next hour will bring.

Jud 1:5 I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.

Jud 1:6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

Jud 1:7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

The Lord God Almighty is in charge, though it appears Satan is. When the time comes we shall know that God has not forsaken, has not forgotten His own. Let us turn to the Holy Bible for that reassurance.

Mat 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

2Pe 2:4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *[them]* down to hell, and delivered *[them]* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

2Pe 2:5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth *[person]*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

2Pe 2:6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned *[them]* with an overthrow, making *[them]* an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

2Pe 2:7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

2Pe 2:8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed *[his]* righteous soul from day to day with *[their]* unlawful deeds;)

2Pe 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

2Pe 2:10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous *[are they]*, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

Read the above and re-read it with your heart, giving thanks that the Lord has not forgotten you - in the midst of where you are, in the midst of the pain, the suffering, you may be experiencing.

Some have forgotten how the Lord Jesus Christ has always delivered His people from the darkness, from Satan and his followers. Oh, you say, but it has not been deliverance because the followers of Jesus Christ have suffered much, they have been martyred. The Lord has been with them all in the midst of their tribulation, and I invite you to read Revelation 7.9-17 to experience the glory of being in the presence of the Lord God Almighty in Christ Jesus. Let us pray Revelation 22.20.

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Take note of what the Lord Jesus Christ said to the Church of Philadelphia.

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown (Rev 3.11).

Yes, take note! Take note in your heart and read and re-read the Word of God that you might be encouraged in the Lord, that you might rise up as did Elijah when he realized that the enemy was endeavoring to take him down, to cause him to take his eyes off of the Lord - that he might be discouraged and turn from the Lord. But, it did not work. Elijah kept his eyes upon the Lord, his heart, turned towards the Lord even when he felt he was the last one on this earth who loved the Lord. His heart was discouraged, but he did not turn away from the Lord.

Again, I remind you not to turn from the Lord (Pro 3.5-7).

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

Know of a surety that the Lord thy God is God and He is in control - come what may. It is hard, difficult, challenging, to trust when it *seems* such chaos exist for no "good reason." It is difficult to lay our lives on the line for the Lord when we lack understanding. But the Lord has made it clear we are to lay it all down and trust Him in these days that lie before us. God is God; He alone knows all things. He cares for His own. He cares for you if you are a child of God in Christ Jesus.

The Lord reminds us in His Holy Word that He is God and He takes care of His own; however, we must place our lives fully into His care and trust Him with all of our heart, our life, our all.