There is no bridge over troubled waters., on: 2016/12/30 18:27

In the Christian world, in the kingdom of God, there are no bridges over troubled waters. The children of God are compelled to pass through the waters. And when we do, we are promised that God will be with us. To pass from the wilderness of this world into the Kingdom of God there are many troubled waters to pass through. There is an old negro spiritual song called â€œWade in the waters, Gods gonna trouble the waters.â€ Has God troubled your waters?

Does He cause you to pass through the waters? Are you passing through them right now? Can I tell you that the life dedicated to Christ is a life of troubled waters. We cannot go around them and we cannot go over them, we must go through them. In Christendom, many refuse to pass through the waters, yet this is Gods calling. The outer court, the court of the gentiles is filled with those who refuse to pass through the waters.

Almost ten years ago, after being a Christian for fifteen years and having prayed to God sometime before that to do â€œwhatever it takes,â€ to make me useful in His kingdom I had a vision. Actually it was more than a vision, I am not sure what you would call it. One morning I was sitting in church and the service was under way but I was lost in my own thoughts. Suddenly I found myself plunged under water. It was so real that it took my breath away and I found myself panicking. It was quite shallow, perhaps only about four feet deep yet I was flat on my back on the bottom of a fast flowing river. I was laying on smooth stones. I tried to get up but God would not allow me, it was as if He had His hand on my chest allowing I could not see it. I could see the surface of the river and the sun above it, but I could not move. The Lord told me, in a very calm voice, â€œbreathe.â€ I was scared and would not breathe. The Lord again repeated â€œbreathe.â€

It was terrifying to open my mouth but I shut my eyes and opened my mouth expecting water to rush into my lungs but suddenly I was breathing. The Lord spoke to me and told me He would enable me to stay in this place. He wanted to shape me, like the smooth stones. The troubles waters of life was going to shape me, I would not be shaped by the hand of man but by the troubled waters of life and in the midst of it all God would enable me to not only survive there but to thrive there and help others pass through.

Isa 43:2 When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. Isa 43:10 Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: Isa 43:19 Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

God has called forth His witnesses in this day and they shall glorify Him as they pass through the troubled waters of life, as they walk through the fires He shall be with them and the only thing that shall be burned up is the worldliness that remains in us. Are you looking for a god that will save you from the troubled waters? Or do you seek to take up your cross and follow God through the troubled waters of life knowing that He will be with you as you pass through.

There are no bridges over troubled waters, there is only God as we pass through them. In Him we live and breathe and have our being, His promises are an anchor to our souls, without Him we are swept away by the troubled waters of life. When we yield to Him and the circumstances of our lives and allow them to shape us, then we are allowing the hand of God to shape our lives. Trust is the anchor of our souls, what He has begun, He will finish.....bro Frank

Re: There is no bridge over troubled waters. - posted by Eliabeth, on: 2016/12/30 21:55

Bro. Frank,
AMEN and PRAISE GOD!

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elizabeth
Re: There is no bridge over troubled waters. - posted by beekpr, on: 2016/12/30 22:08

Thanks, Frank for sharing this vision. Had I known what experiences I was going to face in life as a Christian, I doubt whether I could have gone on. Yet, somehow through it all, God not only sustained me but revealed Himself to me in ways I had not imagined that one could know Him. In the past days I have been revisiting some of the poetry which I wrote over forty years ago through some of the blackest of these times - just thinking of the anguish of the past is traumatic. Yet I must remember that I was created for the glory of God and not for the pleasures of this life. He has given me the things that really matter - the best of these is to truly know Him as my Father and to be able to see His Hand at work in my life. What you shared helps to clarify my vision of His way with me.

David

Re: There is no bridge over troubled waters. - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2016/12/31 14:25

AMEN!

There is a saying that "God will not give you more then you can handle." I have come to the conclusion this is as false as false can be. If we can handle the vexing things that we encounter in life one would not need God! Instead, God leads us to difficult situations that we cannot handle so we will be forced to trust him to intervene and let him work. Doing so will build trust in our hearts towards God and it will build faith as well, knowing God will sustain us. And whatever is accomplished through us is not our own doings but God.

I have come to this conclusion God does not need us to do His work but he wants us to cooperate with Him in doing His work. This will enhance our love and worship for who He is. And He likes that.

Thanks for sharing, Frank.

Sandra

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2016/12/31 15:15

Praise God He molds His servants through trials. Our Lord was even taken to court, when Zac Poonen had the same done to him the Holy Spirit reminded him of this and he had joy through the entire process and defended himself (I believe) just as our Lord did.

David writes..........  

"Had I known what experiences I was going to face in life as a Christian, I doubt whether I could have gone on."

I think all the saints could say amen to that brother. It's all the more remarkable that the apostle Paul knew his fate yet was still able to walk the walk that he did by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus of course knew that He had come to be totally rejected and then tortured and killed.

There is a certain sect of pentecostalism that always wants to "know." The older I get the less I want to know what is to come or what is around the next corner. To know the Lord becomes the important thing. To have Him walk with us along the way is the fulfillment of all things. Circumstances begin to lose their reality as the one who is with us in the midst of those circumstances increases. As long as He is with us then all that matters in the end is that He is with us................... bro Frank

Sandra writes.........

"There is a saying that "God will not give you more then you can handle." I have come to the conclusion this is as false as false can be. If we can handle the vexing things that we encounter in life one would not need God!"

That is spot on sister. No saint who has walked through the fires or passed through the waters would ever say that God will not give you more than you can handle. We are truly shaped by the events that bring us to our knees. The place where we realize that we have limitations and we have reached the end of ours is truly the place of transformation. We are n
ever the same after realizing that we are finite and all of our abilities are finite. This is where the infinite steps in and touches us and reaches out His hand and helps us up from off our knees............bro Frank