



## Devotional Thoughts :: The Harness of the Lord

### The Harness of the Lord - posted by MaryJane, on: 2009/4/17 22:59

Greetings

This was shared with me this evening and I thought that I would pass it along here. It is a bit long but well worth the read . Really reminded me how vital it is for us to live our lives in submission to the Lord. IF our eyes are intently on Him then we will not stray to the right or the left but follow only His leading.

God Bless

Maryjane

The Harness of the Lord

Consider in story form the harnessing of our own wills...

#### I SAW THE KING'S CARRIAGE

On a dirt road in the middle of a wide field stood a beautiful carriage, something on the order of a stagecoach, but all edged in gold and with beautiful carvings. It was pulled by six large chestnut horses, two in the lead, two in the middle and two in the rear. But they were not moving, they were not pulling the carriage, and I wondered why.

Then I saw the driver underneath the carriage, on the ground on his back, just behind the last two horses' heels, working on something between the front wheels of the carriage. I thought, "My, he is in a dangerous place; for if one of those horses kicked or stepped back, they could kill him. Or if they decided to go forward or got frightened somehow, they would pull the carriage right over him."

But he didn't seem afraid, for he knew that those horses were disciplined and would not move till he told them to move. The horses were not stamping their feet nor acting restless, and though there were bells on their feet, the bells were not tinkling. There were pom-poms on their harness over their heads, but the pom-poms were not moving. They were simply standing still and quiet, waiting for the voice of the Master.

#### THERE WERE TWO YOUNG COLTS IN THE FIELD

As I watched the harnessed horses, I noticed two young colts coming out of the open field, and they approached the carriage and seemed to say to the horses:

"Come and play with us; we have many fine games; we will race with you, come and catch us." And with that the colts kicked up their heels, flicked their tails and raced across the open field. But when they looked back and saw the horses were not following, they were puzzled. They knew nothing of harnesses, and could not understand why the horses did not want to play. So they called to them:

"Why do you not race with us? Are you tired? Are you too weak? Do you not have strength to run? You are much too solemn; you need more joy in life." But the horses answered not a word, nor did they stamp their feet nor toss their heads. But they stood, quiet and still, waiting for the

voice of the Master.

Again the colts called to them: "Why do you stand so in the hot sun? Come over here in the shade of this nice tree. See how green the grass is? You must be hungry; come and feed with us, it is so green and good. You look thirsty; come drink of one of our many streams of cool clear water." But the horses answered them with not so much as a glance, but stood still, waiting for the command to go forward with the King.

#### COLTS IN THE MASTER'S CORRAL

And then the scene changed, and I saw lariat nooses fall around the necks of the two colts, and they were led off to the Master's corral for training and discipline. How sad they were as the lovely green fields disappeared, and they were brought into the confinement of the corral with its brown dirt and high fence. The colts ran from fence to fence, seeking freedom but found that they were confined to this place of training. And then the Trainer began to work on them with His Whip and His Bridle. What a death for those who had been all their lives accustomed to such a freedom! They could not understand the reason for this torture, this terrible discipline. What great crime had they done to deserve this? Little did they know of the responsibility that was to be theirs when they had submitted to the discipline, learned to perfectly obey the Master, and finished their training. All they knew was that this processing was the most horrible thing they had ever known.

#### SUBMISSION AND REBELLION

One of the colts rebelled under the training, and said, "This is not for me. I like my freedom, my green hills, my flowing streams of fresh water. I will not take any more of this confinement, this terrible training." So he found a way out, jumped the fence and ran happily back to the meadows of grass. And I was astonished that the Master let him go, and went not after him. But he devoted His attention to the remaining colt. This colt, though he had the same opportunity to escape, decided to submit his own will, and learn the ways of the Master. And the training got harder than ever, but he was rapidly learning more and more how to obey the slightest wish of the Master, and to respond to even the quietness of His voice. And I saw that had there been no training, no testing, there would have been neither submission nor rebellion from either of the colts. For in the field they did not have the choice to rebel or submit; they were sinless in their innocence. But when brought to the place of testing and training and discipline, then was made manifest the obedience of one and the rebellion that lay hidden in the heart of the other. And though it seemed safer not to come to the place of discipline because of the risk of being found rebellious, yet I saw that without this there could be no sharing of His glory, no Sonship.

## INTO THE HARNESS

Finally this period of training was over. Was he now rewarded with his freedom, and sent back to the fields? Oh no. But a greater confinement than ever now took place, as a harness dropped about his shoulders. Now he found there was not even the freedom to turn about the small corral, for in the harness he could only move where and when His Master spoke. And unless the Master spoke, he stood still.

The scene changed, and I saw the other colt standing on the side of a hill, nibbling at some grass. Then across the fields, down the road came the King's carriage, drawn by six horses. With amazement he saw that in the lead, on the right side, was his brother colt now made strong and mature on the good corn in the Master's stable. He saw the lovely pom-poms shaking in the wind, noticed the glittering gold bordered harness about his brother, heard the beautiful tinkling of the bells on his feet...and envy came into his heart. Thus he complained to himself: "Why has my brother been so honored, and I am neglected? They have not put bells on my feet, nor pom-poms on my head. The Master has not given me the wonderful responsibility of pulling His carriage, nor put about me the golden harness. Why have they chosen my brother instead of me?" And by the Spirit the answer came back to me as I watched. "Because one submitted to the will and discipline of the Master, and one rebelled, --thus has one been chosen and the other set aside."

## A FAMINE IN THE LAND

Then I saw a great drought sweep across the countryside, and the green grass became dead, dry, brown and brittle. The little streams of water dried up, stopped flowing, and there was only a small muddy puddle here and there. I saw the little colt (I was amazed that it never seemed to grow or mature) as he ran here and there, across the fields looking for fresh streams and green pastures, finding none. Still he ran, seemingly in circles, always looking for something to feed his famished spirit. But there was a famine in the land, and the rich green pastures and flowing streams of yesterday were not to be had. And one day the colt stood on the hillside on weak and wobbly legs, wondering where to go to find food, and how to get strength to go. Seemed like there was no use, and all the efforts to find more food and flowing streams only taxed his waning strength. Suddenly he saw the King's carriage coming down the road, pulled by six great horses. And he saw his brother, fat and strong, muscles rippling, sleek and beautiful with much grooming. His heart was amazed and perplexed, and he cried out: "My brother, where do you find the food to keep you strong and fat in these days of famine? I have run everywhere in my freedom, searching for food, and I find none. Where do you, in your awful confinement, find food in this time of drought? Tell me,

please, for I must know!" And then the answer came back from a voice filled with victory and praise: "In my Master's House, there is a secret place in the confining limitations of His stables where He feeds me by His own hand, and His granaries never run empty, and His well never runs dry." And with this the Lord made me to know that in the time of spiritual famine, that those who have lost their own wills, and have come into the utter confinement of His perfect will, shall have plenty of the corn of Heaven, and a never ending flow of fresh streams of revelation by His Spirit.

#### PLENTY IN THE TIME OF FAMINE

For in the hour when famine sweeps the land, He shall feed by His own hand those who are submitted to His perfect will, and who dwell in the secret place of the Most High. When terror stalks the land, those in His harness shall not be afraid, for they shall feel His bit and bridle and know the guidance of His Spirit. When others are weak and frail and fearful, there shall be those who shall be strong in the power of His might, and shall lack for no good thing. In the hour when the traditions of the religious systems have proven false, and their streams have dried up, then His Chosen ones shall speak forth with the true Word of the Lord.

The fence which kept the colts in their own meadows and their own pastures mean nothing to the team in the harness, for the gates open to them, and they go forth pulling the King's carriage into many strange and wonderful places. They do not stop to eat the poison weeds of sin, for they feed only in the Master's stable. These fields they trample under their feet as they go forth on the King's business. And so, to those who are brought into absolute subjection to His will, there is no Law. For they move in the Grace of God, led only by His Spirit where all things are lawful but not all things are expedient. This is a dangerous realm for the undisciplined, and many have perished in sin as they leaped over the fence without His harness and His bridle. Some have thought of themselves as being completely harnessed and submissive to Him, only to find that in some avenue of their life there dwelled rebellion and self-will. Let us wait before Him until He puts His noose around us and draws us to His place of training. And let us learn of the dealings of God and the movings of His Spirit until at last we feel His harness drop about us and hear His voice guiding us. Then there is safety from the traps and pitfalls of sin, and then shall we abide in His house forever!

Though the chastising seems grievous for the time, and the discipline hard to endure, yet the result with all the glory of Sonship is worth it all, and the glory to follow far exceeds the suffering we endure. And though some lose even their lives in this training, yet they will share alike in the glory of His eternal purposes. So faint not, saints of God, for it is the Lord that brings you into confinement,

and not your enemy. It is for your good, and for His glory, so endure all things with praises and thanksgiving that He has counted you worthy to share His glory! Fear not the whip in His hand, for it is not to punish you, but to correct and train you, that you might come into submission to His will, and be found in His likeness in that hour. Rejoice in trials, in all tribulations, and glory in His cross, and in the confining limitations of His harness, for He has chosen you. And He has taken upon Himself the responsibility of keeping you strong and well fed, so lean upon Him, and trust not in your own ability and your own understanding. So shall you be fed, and His hand shall be upon you, and His glory shall overshadow you and shall flow through you as it goes forth to cover the earth. Glory to God! Bless the Lord, He is wonderful! Let Him be Lord of your life, and complain not at that which He brings to pass in your life. Rejoice! Sons of God, that you have been chosen by His grace for this great work in this last hour.

William Britton, 1963

**Re: The Harness of the Lord - posted by MaryJane, on: 2009/4/20 15:32**

Greetings

One of my younger sons read this article to and this morning he shared some of his thoughts Father has been showing him about it. He said that the part that really touched him was this part:

As I watched the harnessed horses, I noticed two young colts coming out of the open field, and they approached the carriage and seemed to say to the horses: "Come and play with us; we have many fine games; we will race with you, come and catch us." And with that the colts kicked up their heels, flicked their tails and raced across the open field.

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My son said this really reminded him of 1 Corinthians 13:11 "When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things."

He said that the colts in the article are very much like many of us today both in the church and outside of the church. There are many who seem to never grow up, they behave like a child holding on to things or attitudes from their youth, they are only concerned with themselves and what is best for them. They never really seem to want to mature and become men. Just like the colts they are more concerned with their stuff, their time and themselves. He said that as he grows he wants to be before God to learn what it really means to be a servant, to care about others, and to walk in what the Lord has for Him daily, not just on a Sunday morning or when it fits into what he wants but in all things. This is what Father has put on his heart and I just thought I would share it here

God Bless  
Maryjane

**Re: , on: 2009/4/20 16:57**

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Wow, this is impressive Sis. How old is your son?

**Re: The Harness of the Lord - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2009/4/20 20:37**

This story, and a collection of other short stories like it, can be found in a DeVern Fromke book titled *Seeing God's Wisdom in His Ways*. I have been reading this book and its companion, *Seeing God's Purpose in Everything*, at family devotional times for many years. The stories grab the attention of the children and make for excellent discussions on biblical topics.

(<http://www.fromkebooks.com/#>) HERE is a link to a site that carries his books.

In Christ,

Ron