

My Fathers Hands

I have been on the road now for quite a while today. I started early to drive into another state. The trip kept me on the road for 8 hours. I usually take the time on trips like this to listen to my worship music. I seem to feel closer to the Lord in my car, worshiping, praying, singing, and crying, yes all these things.

My car has become my prayer closet.

This trip was unique. For the first time in my 62 years I noticed something that never caught my attention before. When you drive you are concentrating on the road ahead. Yet there within your vision, always before you is your steering wheel.

And clutching your steering wheel are your two hands on the wheel. As the light changed from early dawn to morning and then back to evening on this trip, I could not help noticing my hands.

As my wrists bent in multiple directions while turning the steering wheel I began to recognize my fathers hands. No longer was the skin wrapped tightly around the muscles underneath. Instead wrinkles formed patterns of loose skin that reminded me of boiled chicken. Age spots became prominent as they started to come together like freckles.

Every time I looked in the rear view mirror I could swear the words fragile were imprinted on my forehead. And yes, my nose has grown immensely and my ear lobes were so large that if I put my head out of the window like a dog my body would begin to fly.

Where had the time gone? Mile after mile I drove that day thinking about where the child went, the teenager, the young adult who became a husband, the husband a father and now a grandfather.

When I have time to think as I did on that trip I usually reminisce.

I have been a believer in Jesus for 25 years. As a Jewish **un**-believer, a stranger once said to me that my religious faith system was based on a foundation of legends, myths and half-truths.

This man challenged me to investigate the truth of my Jewish traditions. He said I was a product of a man made religion, where the words of men, were elevated above the Word of God. He told me Judaism was a religious system without a Messiah.

Today, if given the chance I could debate some of the inferences he made to me about Judaism being a man made religion without a Messiah. I say that because it's not really true. However, I was searching at the time and his words cut me deep within my heart and turned my mind on. God had a purpose within this encounter for me.

Proof of what Truth is... was what my heart and mind were trying to focus on early in my search for God. It was difficult at first. Yet the more I read the Bible the clearer IT'S Truth became.

One of the most thought provoking statements in the Bible did not come from the lips of any Prophet, or an Apostle or even the Lord Himself.

The Statement I am referring to came from the mouth of Pontius Pilate, at Christ's trial. The Lord said "For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone, who is of the truth hears my voice".

Pilate's reply was "What is Truth?".

Today in the 21st century, mankind considers himself all knowing. Man has made himself the center of his universe. We live in a relativistic world where your opinion is as valuable as the next persons. Truth, no longer stands alone as the Standard.

Nothing has really changed since Pilate uttered that statement 2,000 years ago.

Scripture states that as believers we must always be ready to give a defense of our faith. We tend to forget that our Christian faith stands on the firm foundation of HIS...Story.

We as Christians do not place our faith in myths, fairy tales or fables.

Our faith is verifiable by science, archeology, history and most of all by the pre-written history of God, which you and I know as prophecy.

So What Is Truth? This was the key question that ultimately would bring me to my knees. Finding out the Truth about God became the driving force the Holy Spirit used within my soul, to witness to my Spirit, and connect my mind to my heart during my 3-year journey to belief in Christ.

How precious is that Truth you know, the Good News of Jesus death and Resurrection? I am sure you believe in Heaven and that you will be there with the Lord. Just as real is the promise of Hell for all those who die without the Lord.

People that you and I love will stand before Christ alone in judgment. People, who casting their gaze at us will wonder why we said nothing; as they are condemned to a Godless eternity with their entire lives relived within their minds over and over and over.

We do not understand what it is to live without hope. No matter what happens we believe in hope. But when we take the wrong road into eternity; we face a hopeless future.

For we all have a future beyond the grave.

I know many of the tears the Lord will wipe from my eyes, will be tears of remorse for the times I had an opportunity to say something to someone, and to my shame I did not. This is the ultimate burden we will carry all the way to the throne of God, as we each stand before HIM.

It took many years for me to realize that I truly am a sojourner, an alien resident of earth. This is not my home. Like all believers before me I am looking forward to that Heavenly City on a hill that is not made with hands.

I live each day with that perspective. In so doing, I acknowledge that God knew me before the foundations of the world were ever made. God called me by name and gave me eternal life in HIS Son Jesus. I not only had my name engraved in the Book of Life referred to in the Old Testament.

But my name is now transcribed from the Book of Life into the Lambs Book of Life. God had a plan for every day, every hour, and every breath of life and word spoken that would come out of my mouth.

God saved me for a reason. That reason is so I would tell everyone the Good News of Salvation through Christ. I believe that is the only reason that God allows me to live another day. The Truth I referred to earlier that we must all come to know is that it is our responsibility to know enough about Jesus in Scripture; so we can not only proclaim HIM to the Lost but also Defend HIM before those who Mock God.

But, Yes, witnessing is tough! I have learned through the years to look for the storms. In the beginning of my walk of faith, fear would come knocking on my door. But now I realize that without the storms I would not have the great faith in Christ and His Promises that now make me who I am.

I wear biblical contact lenses through which I see the world as it really is. And I have a hearing aid tuned to the whispers of God as He gently leads me through each storm. So now through living life and growing through pain I have knowledge and personal experiences to share my faith with others.

So I can be a witness, because I too have scars.

Witnessing takes knowledge, and experience but most of all the realization that we are not alone in the battle. In fact what we are

called to do is just speak. The Holy Spirit will give us the words. It's a matter of confidence. Confidence placed in the Holy Spirit; not us.

Perhaps you don't feel confident because you are afraid you will not know the answer to the questions people will ask you. Just remember it's ok to say I will get back to you. At least the conversation can continue another day. Then go home and prepare.

Or perhaps you just don't know how to bring the subject up. God is in charge of opening opportunities for each of us to witness. Your responsibility is to recognize them and open the door to the encounter.

Then through prayer turn it over to the Holy Spirit, for He is there with you. You are responsible only to plant the seed; the Holy Spirit ***will water those seeds with the very tears of God*** to make them grow.

Always remember this...everything must be bathed in Prayer first. Then keep the following 4 points in mind.

1. All people are not uniquely difficult to reach, but you have to reach them uniquely.
2. Love them to life, do something nice...let your actions speak to them.
3. People do not care how much you know until you show them how much you care.
4. Make it easier, not harder for the next Christian to witness to that person.

God is Love,

God is Peace,

God is Grace,

God is Mercy.

God is Faith and ONLY in Jesus Christ... is there HOPE...

Because God is also your JUDGE.

To me the greatest attribute of Jesus is FORGIVENESS.
HIS LOVE for us motivated Jesus and that is important.

But His purpose in coming here is to FORGIVE us.

That is why HE came.

Yes Love conquers all.

But Forgiveness is the proof of the Greatest Love of ALL...
The Love of God for every one of His Children.

Don't wait till your old to discover the TRUTH. Yes, the important thing is to discover the TRUTH at any age. But if you wait till you are old you will be forever sorry for the years you wasted not being able to serve The KING of KINGS and the LORD of LORDS.

So stop, think and take the time to link your heart and mind as one in Christ and then fall on your knees before HIS CROSS...

so that you can become a Child of the One True God.

Then you will grow up to have the HANDS of your FATHER.