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A Letter from Pastor Marr

March 2008

Dear One in Christ Jesus:

I fell backward in the dark!!

Once again, God's miracle hand was on me!!

Amazingly, I managed to get up and into the house in indescribable pain.

The next day, dear faithful coworker, Manny Trinidad, took me to the Emergency Room where they confirmed what I was already sure of:

Nothing was broken or permanently damaged!!

All praise to Almighty God!!

But for nearly two weeks I suffered from frequent severe leg, foot, sciatic, and groin pain. I could not walk without support or help. The pain was too great.

Then, I wrote: "Getting in and out of bed have been a frightening, painful experience. And I'm believing God for some real release from all of this today."

Now, believe it!!! While I still have some pain and difficulty in walking, the very next morning I was able to walk so much more freely.

All praise to God alone!!

As I was writing this letter, the phone rang to tell me that one of our most dear friends and supporters was experiencing deep, constant pain from a crack in the hip. I'm sure you have had similar experiences and we sympathize together.

All we can do at such times is wait on God and trust in His unfailing love.

It is when we feel that God has deserted us that our pain is deepest and most lasting. Oh, may it never be long so for us. And, when it seems so, may we run quickly to Him as a lost child.

"My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Pastor Marr

From 'round the World!

* I give all glory to God for the book you gave me, may the Almighty God bless you. - A.A., Nigeria.

* He is in control. I am praying you and all in the ministry are supplied until Jesus comes, especially God keep you in His service to provide us with your wisdom. Thank you again for everything. - R.D., N.J

* We are still keeping God lifted up in our lives. We pray you have some good days - M.L, IN

* I believe I have grown somewhat spiritually while you have been my pastor, having read your messages and recommended books. - P.M., WV

* Just a message of love. You are and have been for decades a very special man of God to me. I pray for you constantly and will be back in touch with you very soon. - D.S., NJ

To God be All the Glory! He Alone is Worthy!

Practical Help for Power-filled Christian Living!!

"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death."

"... I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." -Philippians 3:10; 4:13

This message comes out of the trauma of my everyday struggle to walk with God in love and peace. And my prayer is that it will make your way a little easier. [Before reading further, read Philippians 3:3,7,10;4:4,6,7.]

The Place of Power / The Place of Peace First

I have found great benefit in my morning prayer time from coming to a place of restfulness before the Lord even if this means allowing myself to fall into a state of semi-sleepfulness.

I often find worshiping God to be a great asset in my quest for this place of restfulness before the Lord.

Examples of words of worship are found in my brochure message titled Worship Prayer and in all three of my books. See the back page of this brochure to order your own copies.

Sometimes worship may be praising God, perhaps in song or scripture. I have a Psalms for Worship tape that may assist you with worship in your quiet time, or when you're driving or doing physical work. Also a brochure message titled Beautiful Help for Worship ... From the Psalms.

You may know enough of the characteristics and names of God to say them as your words of worship.

Sometimes just to repeat the words, "God," or "Jesus," or "blessed Spirit" may suffice. Other times to tell the Lord you love Him, long for Him, seek Him, want Him, and need Him.

On occasion I've found help in coming to the place of restfulness in acknowledging my hopelessness and helplessness, my nothingness apart from God, my impossibility, my weakness, my neediness. Even sometimes I've just repeated words like "wait," "rest," "be still," "silence," "quiet," "ease."

To actually come to the place of being quiet before the Lord is a wonderful form of worship and may be the very place of restfulness we are seeking.

When I reach the place of restfulness in the Lord, I find not only peace, but tears rolling down my cheeks, often profusely.

Now, it's vital that we know our real goal is never ultimately either worship or this place of restfulness ... and certainly not tears ... but a growing intimacy with Almighty God that impacts our daily life for His glory, our benefit, and the good of every person we affect directly or indirectly.

Peace and Power All Day

Starting the day in the place of restfulness is a good beginning, but no guarantee of satisfactory progress toward that ultimate goal.

It's rarely many minutes after leaving the place of restfulness alone with God before the rest is challenged. Someone imposes on me. I've got to do something I don't want to do. I can't do what I want to do. Someone's attitude hurts me. And so the day goes on!

We need to adopt a new attitude toward life and everything in it, an attitude entirely foreign to sinful humanity.

It's a positive response to the difficulties of life rather than a negative response. Our native negative responses to life's unpleasantness include, anger, frustration, fear, anxiety, impatience, hatred, hurry, and tension.

The positive responses include love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, confidence in God, meekness, restraint.

I'm not about to tell you that you can simply decide to replace the negative responses with positive responses at will. They're the fruit of the spirit.

Our sinful nature doesn't want to respond positively to hurtful stimuli. We want to be angry or anxious, frustrated or fearful. "It's only natural. I have every right to react that way. And nobody's going to deprive me of it!!!" [Read Philippians 4:11b,12,13,19,8.]

Content with God Fully in Charge

First, we need to start out building on some facts:

God is still ultimately in charge even in a sinning world, and is actually able to bring benefit out of every circumstance that comes into our lives. He doesn't allow anything to touch us but it's designed to do us good. (Romans 8:28).

This being true, it makes sense for us to join with Paul in being content in the Lord no matter what happens.

But sense or not, it won't work that way unless our God is "all-sufficient always in all things" ... unless our God can be trusted to bring us good through every pain, suffering, displeasure, difficulty, and persecution. Be sure to request a copy of the message brochure, God is Enough.

Every negative response to unpleasant stimuli will as surely interrupt our rest in the Lord as will any specific act of sin.

The body will tend to succumb to ulcers, heart disease, and every illness. The mind and emotions will react to stress overload with distress, pain, and ultimately some degree of mental and emotional illness.

What is the Cure?

Rejoicing and resting in God, content in whatever He permits must be our priority always ... be it life or death. Remember that everything is for your eternal good, and even his timing is meticulous!!

At every recognition of a negative response, seek by God's enabling, to return to the Lord in love, or worship, or rest, or peace, or quietness, or praise, or song, or rejoicing, or thanksgiving.

Cast yourself quietly, trustingly, on Him in your need and incapacity.

Seek by His enabling to let go of the negative response. Seek sweetly to recognize that in this situation too, God is totally in control, totally to be trusted, no matter that it seems perfectly obvious to the carnal mind He isn't at all in control.

By God's grace, be willing to let go of your supposed right to your negative responses. Want to be rid of them. It may help here to admit to the Lord just how needy you really are, how incapable, how dependent you are on Him for this and for everything else.

Seek quietly to return to the place of peace in your spirit with God. Go aside into a quiet location as often as you can, even if it's the restroom. It may be better to return there than to stay a longer time first thing in the morning.

If the devil takes advantage of your sincerity and turns any of this against you, be prepared to do whatever brings you the help you need. There's nothing legalistic about any of this, just seeking the Lord in love and peace.

Recognize that you're not only a spiritual being, but physical, mental, and emotional too. Make sure you get adequate rest and sleep, and lots of clean water. Find out what constitutes a healthy diet.

Walk on in peace with God.

Jesus Christ - the King of kings and Lord of lords!