

the word that keeps coming to me today is "advocate". during my time in the hospital, i always liked when my friend was there with me. since she has raised children all her life, for some reason she could understand my mutterings when no one else could. she was always there to make sure i had all i needed and that i was carefully attended to. she has a heart of gold but one never wants to make her mad. if someone wasn't prompt or courteous in their actions, she would jump to my defense and not be subtle about it.

Jesus is now serving as our advocate. He either makes our shortcomings by His self or He testifies to the Father that we have had enough. the enemy is restrained because our Lord stands up for us. He has personally experienced more than any of us ever could. more than that, He knows the limits of one's endurance. some people are stronger than others. some are more established in their faith than others. there are babes that need their diapers changed frequently. babies always make a mess and He knows that we must be lovingly protected as we grow. they cry when they are dirty or when they are hungry. constant care and attention is required.

i so often correlate the raising of a baby to our growth in Christ. after all, we are born again into a spirit realm that we have to learn about. we know hunger as we grow and soil or diapers (spirits) when we mess up. the Lord is always there to keep us safe as we navigate our way. and we grow into mature sons as we learn to watch and imitate. we imitate the One who did all things right. "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are

being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." 1 cor 3:18 we are born babes but we are not to remain babes.

did not the Father say, "this is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." don't get hung up on Jesus being the Son of God. He is part of the eternal triune composure of God. that was made clear in john 1:1 "in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made." begotten insinuates creation and He was not created. He always was. He wasn't begotten until He was manifested in the flesh and that was so He could die for our sins.

i have a favorite verse from the amplified bible. "the measure of thought and study you give to the truth you hear will be the measure of virtue and knowledge that comes back to you." mark 2:24 friend, you can have as much of God as you want. the one who hungers and thirsts after righteousness shall be filled. He says to seek and you shall find. we are all to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.

may each of us to make that diligent search. just because someone is born into a religion or a denomination doesn't mean it is God's way. the devil who rules this world is always seeking to divide or distort the true path to God. it is the One Who died that we might live. the One who paid the price we could never pay. the one who conquered death and now lives forever. we need to seek out the face of God and He will reveal to us the truth. Jesus said "I am the

way, the truth, and the life." the one who seeks will find.

"let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer. " psa 19:14

linda