

jan 13

i was pondering today whether i had anything from the Lord that needed to be said. as i sat in front of my computer, nothing was coming to me. a few thoughts came to mind as i asked the Holy Spirit. surely He always has something to say. something to lift up Jesus and glorify His name; something to magnify His victory.

the thing that settled in my spirit mostly was value. how much do we value this gift that has been given us? does He remain your "pearl of greatest price"? "the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. in his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field." matt 13:44

perhaps this walk with Jesus is more like a marriage than we want to admit. the days of courting are often filled with excitement and anticipation about the next meeting. one seeks to do those little things that will please them and make an impression on our behalf. after years of marriage, not so much. do we tend to settle in and expect things and take them for granted?

i remember when i first fell in love with Jesus. i eagerly consumed His word as i worked my way through His word. i even traversed the sometimes dry and boring book of leviticus faithfully. surely he has written nothing that was not of value. even though His word is still precious to me, i admit i tend to linger far from that book.

my nights were spent in tears and crying out to the Lord, "i want more"! more of Him and less of me. i was like john the baptist who admitted, "He must increase, but i must decrease." john 3:30 i experienced those times which the word speaks of "but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." rom 8:26 i experienced those times when only groanings could come forth because there were no words to express my longings.

one of my favorite scriptures is from the classic amplified translation. "[for my determined purpose is] that i may know Him [that i may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly], and that i may in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection [which it exerts over believers], and that i may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed [in spirit into His likeness even] to His death, [in the hope] that if possible i may attain to the [spiritual and moral] resurrection [that lifts me] out from among the dead [even while in the body]. phil 3:10-11

that's the spirit our God longs to see in each of us. it is a fire which must be continually fed to blaze. it is a fire that continually burns to know "the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly".

"i will remember the works of the Lord; surely i will remember Your wonders of old." psa 77:11 the day is quickly coming when we no longer dwell on His "works of

old" but on His works now taking place. "He has promised, saying, "yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." heb 12:26 "I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapor of smoke." acts 2:19

will you be cuddled in that secret place; so close you can hear His heartbeat? will we be able to endure without it? will we hear Him speak instead, "nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love." rev 2:4 please, please, never not. may He hear from us instead, "i have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food." job 23:12

God wants to be our pearl of greatest price. even as abraham was willing to give all for Him, so must we be. above family, above country, above all our comforts. it doesn't mean God will require it. we just must be willing to give it. even as He gave His only begotten Son, He did not require the son of abraham. one cannot out give God in anything. i pray we give Him our all, confident it is safe in His keeping. may be all proclaim as Jesus did, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." luke 22:42

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