

jan 26

dead ducks don't flutter

"o wretched man that i am! who will deliver me from this body of death?" rom 7:24

many years ago, a wealthy man went duck hunting with a hired hand named sam. they took a horse and carriage, and along the way a rim came off one of the wheels. as sam hammered it back on, he accidentally hit his finger. instantly he let go with some bad words. he quickly fell to his knees, asking God's forgiveness. "Lord, it's difficult at times to live the christian life", he prayed. "sam" said the man, "i know you're a christian, but tell me why you struggle so. i'm an atheist, and i don't have problems like that."

sam didn't know what to say. just then two ducks flew overhead. the man raised his gun and two shots rang out. "leave the dead one and go after that wounded bird!" he shouted. sam pointed at the duck that was fluttering desperately to escape and said, "i've got an answer for you now, boss. you said my christianity isn't any good because i have to struggle so. well, i'm the wounded duck and struggle to get away from the devil. but you boss, you're the dead duck!"

struggle is one evidence of God's work in our lives. forgiveness of sin is available, so don't despair. remember, dead ducks don't flutter.

struggle, yes, it's part of living
nothing's gained on beds of ease;
but when our heart is set on Jesus,
struggle drives us to our knees.

if Jesus lives within us,
sin need not overwhelm us.

- dennis de hann

i hope you enjoyed the little story above. it does so well illustrate the struggle paul painted for us in romans 7. ah, but then we have romans 8. deliverance is at hand. but deliverance must be sought also. it must be walked in. the enemy is always seeking to draw us back into our old ways.

i have heard of some mighty deliverances from the Lord. i believe them all as i know nothing is impossible to God. i have not been blessed with such as that. God deals with each of us in His own way, knowing what is best. me, i seem to be the one struggling to get away. i think many of us are; struggling to get away from our past. that doesn't demonstrate His inability to deliver but His wisdom in knowing what is best. some need that instant deliverance or death is quickly waiting. "God is no respecter of persons" acts 10:34 but He is a respecter of commitment.

we are told: "resist the devil and he will flee from you." james 4:7 we are told the trying of our faith is, "more precious than gold." 1 pet 1:7 resistance builds us up. it builds our faith up.

i've had many tears and sorrows
i've had questions for tomorrow
there's been times i didn't know right from wrong
but in every situation
God gave me blessed consolation
that my trials come to only make me strong

through it all, through it all
i've learned to trust in Jesus
i've learned to trust in God

i thank God for the mountains
and i thank Him for the valleys
i thank Him for the storms He brought me through
for if i'd never had a problem
i wouldn't know God could solve them
i'd never know what faith in God could do

Yes, the struggle is worth it. "for what is your life?
it is even a vapor that appears for a little time and
then vanishes away." james 4:14 it is only then our
real life will begin; the life God desired for us
before time began.