

mar 27

wake up sleeper

"now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep." zech 4:1

i watched an interesting video recently. it was about how the church was asleep, mostly here in the western world but in various areas all over. if christian persecution hasn't yet touched you, be forewarned, it is fast approaching. i heard someone describe it as a "satanic sleep" many are in. that really spoke to my spirit.

the following might help us understand how asleep some are. it seems there was a young christian woman who had escaped to america from the persecution in iran. after a while here, amid the complacency and watered-down word, she was wanting to return to her own country and the persecution. she could see her values and commitment being slowly eaten away and knew the sharp sword of persecution would keep her centered; dependent on every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

i can see the compromise she spoke of myself; alive and flourishing in so many churches. besides that, we get so caught up in our rules and doctrines. you have to do this and you have to do that and be sure no woman is speaking or teaching. it's funny how God is using women in various ways throughout the world. i keep coming back to this one thing - the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. certainly there are some truths christians can't deny and still be christian,

but all the rest is awaiting Christ's full disclosure. for now, we see and know through a glass darkly.

some ministries now are having demands made that they give over their list of donors. it's not just the leaders they want. they want you us as well. the point being; persecution is coming and none will be exempt. will you be asleep or awake when it comes to your door? are you prayed up, filled up, committed up and loved up. that's all that will get us taken up.

i am taken back to a tortured saint of God. "it was strictly forbidden to preach to other prisoners. it was understood that whoever was caught doing this received a severe beating. a number of us decided to pay the price for the privilege of preaching, so we accepted their [the communists'] terms. it was a deal; we preached and they beat us. we were happy preaching. they were happy beating us, so everyone was happy." - richard wurmbrand, tortured for christ

jim elliot once said (himself being a martyr for Christ), "he is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain that which he cannot lose." no, we can never keep this temporary existence, as sure as we can never lose the grace God so freely offers.

oh that i could ever get you hungry for God. as ramadan has now commenced, i think of my muslim friends. many muslims tend to be such god-seeking people, so given to prayer, so god-conscience, but they are looking for God in all the wrong places. we as christians are the stewards of the true message. the gospel is the power of God for salvation. i truly

believe that. i love my friends too much to confess otherwise. Jesus loves them enough to have me say it, all the while knowing it may alienate some.

i would you would desire Him more than a drowning man gasps for that last breath. i think of the sons of korah as they penned these words in their never ending quest for more of God. "as the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, o God." psa 42:1 this is the passion our Lord wants to share with each and everyone but we must pursue it endlessly, relentlessly. it is the treasure we seek and the ecstasy we desire. i have always loved the book, "the pursuit of God," by a.w. tozer. i recommend it to every hungry heart.

there are depths and truths to discover and walk in; glories unimaginable. a dear friend recently wrote me that they could never go back to the mundane milk now they have tasted the meat. milk is good. it serves a purpose. it gently nourishes a newborn even as a mother bird feeds the hatchlings in her nest. but, "everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. but solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." heb 5:13-14 we want be good soldiers for Christ and that means growing up; going from baby food to solid.

do you remember the commercial, where's the beef? they could barely find the meat on their sandwich. i've got news, all the beef (meatier truths) can only be found in the auspices of God, accessed only through the blood

of Jesus and patient pursuit. if one searches the scriptures diligently, they will find the beef, and finding it, they too will never want to go back to milk again.