

nov 3

our journey of faith

"for who makes you differ from another? and what do you have that you did not receive? now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?" 1 cor 4:7

friends, none of us are any more or any less than what God wants us to be. i know many will see that as an excuse for our shortcomings. far be it. i know the apostle paul says in 1 cor 15:10 that he labored more abundantly than all but he prefaces it with the fact that only by the grace of God he was what he was. you see, God created all for a purpose. "but in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor." 2 tim 2:20

i wasn't really raised in a religious setting but neither was i kept from it. i still remember attending vacation bible school and though it mostly served as amusement, there were truths embedded. i was first baptized simply because my friends were, which i corrected later in life with a second, committed one.

there was just in me a "knowing" there was more to it all than simply existing. i finally reached that point in life where i knew it was a now or never place and that is where i met my good friend and mentor, paula rayburn alexander. we attended church together and left together when things no longer "fit."

i use to always sit on the last pew in church while paula wanted as close to the front as possible. she said closer to the anointing. my feeling was that everyone else was so advanced beyond me and that i was there just to learn, so on the back pew i sat.

one sunday morning i remember asking the Lord if He would use me today. lo and behold but a visitor sat on the bench with me. so many years have passed that i can't recall the details, but suffice it to say they needed help and prayer. that was my first real sense of being used by God; all because i had asked.

i have asked many times since then, perhaps to God's annoyance, but never the less with desire and willingness at the root. i remember once a gifted prophetess visited our church. she gave out many words to others but never to me - you see i was on the back pew. i think on her final day we had a chance meeting with an embrace and greeting. as she began to walk away she suddenly stopped, turned and looked as though she wanted to say something more. after a little hesitation she resumed walking. never ridicule or discount the gifts Jesus gave to His church for edification.

had i missed my word from the Lord? had she seen what might have been or what could be? was it good or bad? that feeling has stayed with me til this day. that anxiety of missing the boat or not pleasing my Lord has driven me to strive harder, even as the apostle paul did. and yes, like him, by the grace of God. though my deeds pale greatly next to his, but we were both created for God's purpose. you see, some were created

for the front row and others for the back pew.

that is not to say that one's "works" are greater or lesser than another's. i know my reach is not very far but on occasion i see comments made on a daily, saying how they thank God for my life. believe me, i do not take such remarks lightly but know that all glory belongs to God. God said that His power is made perfect in weakness. "therefore i take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when i am weak, then am i strong." 2 cor 12:10

we all have our appointed journey of faith. as long as we stay the course, God will complete His purpose in each of us. "being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." phil 1:6

this life that often seems like an eternity to us, is only a single blink of God's eye. scripture calls it a vapor that quickly vanishes. remember the saying, "only one life will soon be passed. only what's done for Jesus will last." truer words were never spoken. we are reserving our seats for eternity. whether we are expecting the front seats or the back pews, the seating reservations ultimately will be subject to arrangement by God. "but when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when He who invited you comes He may say to you, 'friend, go up higher.' then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you." luke 14:10

may we all labor to fulfill the work He has appointed

us each. don't look at others and measure yourself, comparing yourselves to them. look only at the Lord and fulfilling His purpose. do the work of God. "then they said to Him, 'what shall we do, that we may work the works of God?' Jesus answered and said to them, "this is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent." john 6:28-29

friends, no matter how long your journey of faith has been - be it days, weeks or years long, know that it's ending grows ever closer. we are the chosen generation to witness Christ's return to glory. we who are faithful to the end will share in His glory. "and the glory which You gave Me I have given them." john 17:22
oh the unsearchable riches of Christ.