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2016 October Newsletter

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Chrysanthemums, Hayrides, Pumpkin Patches, Pumpkin pies, Apples, brightly colored leaves, falling temperatures, winter around the corner. These are happy thoughts of this time of the year – my very favorite! I usually can’t wait to buy a pumpkin to put just outside our door, and a few Mums to place here and there. And of course, as is my custom, I have done that this year.

Somehow however, the season isn’t quite as pleasant this year as it usually is. My Mums were frostbitten early, several friends are enduring severe trials, loss and death, and the news on the Internet and TV is messy, to say the least. We are enduring one of the worst political seasons since I can remember, and that’s nearly three quarters of a century! Will I stay up late until the election results are in this year? I don’t know for sure. But, at least the pumpkin outside our door survives!

Perhaps it’s my desire for harmony speaking, but I hate the haranguing between the political parties, the nasty things said by candidates toward each other, even if they are true. It creates an unsettling feeling in my chest! I know that the Good Book predicts all of these things happening: floods, tornadoes, hurricanes,
plane crashes, wars in the Middle East, unrest here at home with terrorists terrorizing citizens and killing far too many, lack of respect for police and other authorities (granted, some authorities don’t command respect), e-mail scandals and scandals in organizations and foundations that are supposed to be helping people, money grubbing and grabbing, and “men’s hearts failing them for fear of what is coming upon the earth.” And I just want a peaceful and harmonious next two months, with the best holidays coming up, and the gathering of family and friends for food and fellowship.

I have to keep reminding myself, that in my little corner of New Mexico, in our mountain home, all is well and we are at peace with each other. Of course there are struggles even here, but Thank God that between Ron and me, all is well. God has provided the needed help for Ron’s disease, and he is at least holding his own and seems to be improving. Age-related aches and pains are to be expected, and sometimes exhaustion takes over and we have to succumb to a nap, but that’s only a few minutes of Sunday football that’s lost.

Recently, a friend sent me the following piece that she received via e-mail from someone. I have read it several times, as it pairs well with our belief that Satan has an agenda, and those he loves to torture the most, are those who love God. His game—disheartenment, and for sure, he will use whatever means and methods he thinks will wound us the most. Anyway, I have decided to share it with you in hopes that you also, may find in its content, hope for your winterish life ahead.

“The truth of the matter is this: Satan keeps placing things that matter, and are very important into our lives. However, the trick is, that they are not as important as the salvation of ourselves and that of others. Soon we get overwhelmed. This is not a you problem or a me problem it is a problem everyone in life today faces. We all get overwhelmed. This is Satan’s plan.

He does this because overwhelming us will cause us to get less sleep, less sleep causes us to have less ability to think clearly or to operate optimally, or to think that prioritizing time with God first thing in the morning is important enough to get up earlier to do, or to let other things go that matter less. The more tired we are also, the more easily discouraged we get, and the more easily overwhelmed we get. Soon it is a vicious circle.

He doesn't stop there though, once we are wrapped up in this vicious circle, he then digs away at our feelings/emotions. I say dig, because that is what he does, he drags us down, into the depths of despair, anger, anxiety, resentment, bitterness, negativity, jealousy, depression, loneliness, guilt, etc. if he can, because this is his biggest tool, our emotions, and he uses each one, picking the precise one that he knows will get to each of us.

If he manages to win in this “feelings attack”, he will then have access to our soul. But..............JESUS SAVES! Have you ever met someone who is feeling so sorry for themselves that they can’t even see how they are coming across. Angry, bitter, they are so steeped in how unfair life is to them, and how hurt they have been and how hard everything is that they can’t see straight. They can stand 12 inches from your face firing spit balls on your cheeks, forcing out words of contempt for their situation or those who brought them into it, never realizing for a moment the startled expression on your face, or that God has allowed them to climb into that hole by their choice as He hopes that this will cause them to finally only have one thing left to do, and that is to look up and depend on Him, which He
longed for them to do in the first place to avoid all this suffering.

The person I just described has probably been all of us at one point or another. That person is not themselves, Satan has worked his tools into them to affect them this way, or us, if we see ourselves in that picture. I know I can see myself in that mode as I look back over my life. The beautiful thing is that Jesus, wonderful Jesus, is not just the answer, but the immediate answer. One close look at Him and nothing matters, and His light fills that darkened soul and brings life, peace, power, strength and all positive things!! Furthermore, and the best part, is that once turning to Jesus, it brings Him amazing joy. Finally this loved one, who for so long He has wished would stop the rat race, the downward spiral, finally has turned to Him, and He can now help them through it. Think how tired His hand must have gotten, constantly knocking on their heart's door.

In closing, read this beautiful message from Jesus through an inspired writer for us today; for any of us who may be a tad discouraged, or maybe full blown depressed with life, He has given us this message:

"In every trial if we seek Him, Christ will give us help. Our eyes will be opened to discern the healing promises recorded in His word. The Holy Spirit will teach us how to appropriate every blessing that will be an antidote to grief. For every bitter draft that is placed to our lips, we shall find a branch of healing. We are not to let the future, with its hard, problems, its unsatisfying prospects, make our hearts faint, our knees tremble, our hands hang down. "Let him take hold of My strength," says the Mighty One, "that he may make peace with Me, and he shall make peace with Me." Isaiah 27:5. Those who surrender their lives to His guidance and to His service will NEVER be placed in a position for which He has not made provision. Whatever our situation, if we are doers of His word, we have a Guide to direct our way, whatever our perplexity, we have a sure Counselor, whatever our sorrow, bereavement, or loneliness, we have a sympathizing Friend."

So... it is still fall, autumn. Apples are still crisp, new Mums are still available, pumpkins remain on the market, the sky is a deep blue, and the sun is warm. Even though my Morning Glories are no longer fresh each morning, as they too have been bitten by the frost, and my rose bush needs surgery (pruning) and the remaining plants need to come in from the cold at night, the sun still comes up in the mornings, goes down at night and the world is still spinning. When life as we know it comes to a halt, and circumstances around us get worse by the day, know that the end and then the beginning are oh-so-near, and soon we shall go home with the Lord to enjoy eternity with Him forever, and ever. The winter will be past and it will be the best kind of Spring ever!
Wanting to do something to benefit your friends or church family at this discouraging time when our own wounds keep coming up and people seem downtrodden?

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