

Friday's Letter from "Cum and Rest" – 3rd May 2013

A remarkable testimony that has a ***tremendous theological challenge*** to everyone, particularly those in the ministry. It comes from a book, in which, the author, James MacDonald expounds sections of Isaiah, entitled, ***"Gripped by the greatness of God"*** and published by Moody.

As you read this testimony which he recalls, although your circumstances may be very different, you will easily identify with the heart of what Helen Rosevere is saying: MacDonald writes, in a chapter entitled, ***"Gripped by the Sovereignty of God"***:

"Helen Rosevere was a British medical missionary to the Congo during the uprising of the Mau Mau revolutionaries. Though she had gone to the Congo to serve God and to share the gospel, she was personally and brutally attacked. This pure, gracious, innocent woman of God was humiliated and raped, but hung on with her life to a faith in God that refused to be shaken.

While she was recovering from this horrible event, Helen leaned hard on the Lord. That's always the way, isn't it? ***As you go through a painful circumstance, you either get closer to the Lord or further away.***

Trials will always push you. EITHER THEY WEDGE BETWEEN YOU AND GOD, PUSHING YOU FROM HIM, OR THE WEIGHT OF THOSE SAME BURDENS DRIVES YOU CLOSER TO HIM. If today you are broken, feeling crushed by the weight of a trial, you have a choice.

- *You can harden your heart and refuse the sovereign purposes of God that will one day prove good, or*
- *You can run to Him and participate in the blessing God has planned.*

Can I help you make that choice? ***Choose to bury your face, even your tears in the mystery of His sovereignty. It's a hard choice, but one you will never regret.***

Recovering from her ordeal in the Congo, Helen wrote a statement that each of us should consider. She wrote a question as though spoken from God's own mouth:

- ***"CAN YOU THANK ME FOR TRUSTING YOU WITH THIS EXPERIENCE EVEN IF I NEVER TELL YOU WHY?"***

Can you thank God for trusting you with the hardest part of your life? Sometimes:

- *We act as the mighty inquisitors, demanding to know why: "Why did You do this?" We foolishly say, "I won't trust You if You don't show me why!"*
- *We expect that somehow God reveals the answers and conforms His behavior to our narrow intellects.*

What we fail to see is that we are the ones who are on trial and that ***our incessant questioning reveals more about us than it does about God.***

The great Scottish author George MacDonald said, ***"I find that doing the will of God leaves me no time for disputing about His plans."*** For some right now that's tough to hear, it may even feel punishing, but God is giving you grace and time to sort these things through. With His help you can get to sovereignty even if the top of that mountain is swallowed up in the mist of mystery."

"Can you thank me for trusting you with this experience even if I never tell you why?" Not an easy question to answer, is it? But one that requires an answer!!

May the Lord help each one of us to believe that ***the sovereign purposes of God will one day prove good...***

Warmest Christian greetings,

Brian