

## Let Go and Let God

When I come to the end of my journey and face the King of Kings upon His throne What will He say to me?

Will it be "Well done Thou good and faithful servant" or will He say, "Depart from me, I know you not?"

In our humanness, we have the tendency to think we are immortal, and we have plenty of time to prepare ourselves before we face the judgment seat. But the brevity of life has been brought home to us, even within our church family, so many times over the past few years as we watched family members and dear friends suddenly slip out into eternity without warning.

At first we kind of shake our heads in disbelief, as we become more conscious of our own mortality. But as the days go by, in all reality, we kind of slip back into our old ways of thinking - "That's not going to happen to me". But can we be sure of that?

As we come to the end of another year, I think about these dear souls and wonder if through them, God isn't trying to get a message across to us that He has granted us more time to prepare for eternity. I also wonder what we are doing with that precious time. I think in all walks of life, God is trying to tell us something, but if it disturbs our way of thinking, we turn a deaf ear because we really don't want to get the message.

We have always had, always will have storms and disasters from time to time, but we have never seen or heard of such massive destruction, or witnessed the shocked look of complete loss on peoples' faces again and again as we have in recent years.

The horrible events of 9/11 seemed to wake us up for a while, and we suddenly became united in a common cause to rise above the situation, working together as a united people, with old divisions and fighting put aside. A split second before it all unfolded before our very eyes, there were those who fought tooth and nail against public prayer, or even the mention of God's name on the airways.

But in that split second, all that division was put aside as we fell to our knees crying out to Almighty God, pleading for His mercy and help. It was a beautiful sight to see people from all walks of life and ethnic backgrounds united as one for a common cause asking His blessing on everything we did or said as we gathered together and prayed for all the world to see.

But what happened to us? As we come to the end of another year, we are for the most part, right back where we started - divided, bickering and doing all we can to tear each other down. We have also returned to our turning away from God, forgetting that He is the only true source

of help and hope.

It is easy to point fingers and find fault, but we need to remember that when you point your finger at those around us and blame them, the rest of our fingers are pointing back at us, saying "What about you?" That isn't always a good feeling, but it is so true.

So, what can we do? Well an ocean starts with just one drop of water, and a beach starts with just one grain of sand. Likewise, the message of salvation to the world can start in just one individual and spread hope and love throughout the world. This means that we must act on our thoughts and not let them lay dormant.

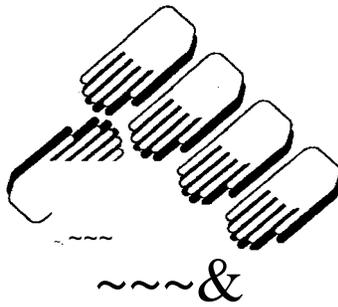
Yes, we have lost many faithful workers over the past few years, but, we personally have made it through. What are we going to do with the blessing of time God has granted to us? This may sound like a dumb way to start a New Year, but it breaks my heart to see what is happening all around us, and I can't help but think about the scripture that says Jesus wept over Jerusalem. I wonder how many times He must weep over this nation when He gives us chance after chance, and yet we don't seem to get the message.

We are just passing through this world and we need to begin to live by faith so we can be assured of eternal life with Jesus Christ our Lord. We

must also leave this old world a better place than it was when we entered it because of our life of faith.

The old year is ending and a brand new year lies ahead of us. Are we going to continue to ignore God's warning or are we going to say "Here I am, Lord, what can I do to further your kingdom here on earth?"

Every time we pray the Lord's prayer, we say, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Do we really mean it? If we do, we will let go of self and let God take complete control of our lives. May God bless you and grant you His peace as you seek to do His will in the days to come. We have only one life, and it will soon be -\_ past. Only what is done for Christ will last, and my dear friends, that is the honest truth.



at Work  
**Prayer Jeanne Bireley**