

THE RIVER OF GOD



The Seas have Lifted Up
Melani Pyke

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Come, behold the works of the Lord, how he has brought desolations on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.

“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Psalm 46 (ESV)

If we're forever taking our spiritual pulse we can end up so introverted as believers that we're useless, we will never bear any fruit. We need to dis-regard our feelings and press on no matter how we feel. We need to keep doing the thing that needs to be done even when we don't feel the presence of God with us

But what do you do when it's not just your feelings that are unsettled? What do you do when you wake up one morn-ing and discover that down in your heart of hearts you've lost touch with God? You've lost your bearings. Now it's not a matter of disregarding your feelings and going on and doing what needs to be done. Because you don't even know what needs to be done.

When we have lost that inner sense of the presence of God there's only one thing to do... stop everything, and work on bringing that relationship with God himself back to where it needs to be.

In the letters to the seven churches in Revelation, every time the Lord has a complaint with any of those churches, it has to do with their relationship with Him.

- "You've lost your first love.
- You've compromised.
- You tolerate evil.
- Your works are no longer whole-hearted.
- You're lukewarm."
- And in every case, the solution is to repent. "Turn back to me... Seek my face."

Normally we have thought of Psalm 46 as a psalm of protection. And it is. But the protection which the Spirit of God offers us as we read that psalm is not to make the sea stop roaring, or the mountains stop shaking.

The protection which God offers us is not to cut down on the external dangers, but rather to give us something inside that will hold us

***"though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea."***

When I have that inner certainty toward God,
when I have that inward peace,
when I inwardly know, and commune with Jeshua my Messiah

- then there's nothing, absolutely nothing that can shake me.

As we read Psalm 46 we see a picture of a world that is falling apart ... everything's going to pieces, nothing's stable anymore. And in the middle of all this confusion there is this city which remains firm. Surrounding the city are nations with their armies moving in from every side. As they move toward the city, surrounding kingdoms are toppling like dominoes. Just when they get to the edge of the city, God, from within the city, speaks. The earth melts. And the war is over.

Now what we see here is a picture of what is going to take place with the actual, physical, Jerusalem in the days ahead. But we see more than that. We also see what is now beginning to happen to Zion, the church, in this hour. If we have any perception at all, we see that all around us things are beginning to fall apart. Not only is the sea roaring, (the sea has always been unstable.) But the mountains are beginning to shake, mountains which have always been a symbol of stability. Now they are turning to jelly and melting down. Everything is falling apart.

But while everything seems to be crumbling on all sides of us, God is doing a thing inside His people, the church, which is going to hold them no matter what takes place.

***There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.***

What is that river?

Obviously, the river is the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God is now coming down like the latter rain upon the earth.

- Lives are being transformed.
- Eyes are being opened.
- The gifts of the Spirit are coming forth in the church, and it's beautiful to see.

But, as this river of the Spirit of God flows in the midst of His people, this river of the Spirit has a particular character, a nature, it's doing a certain thing. It's not just zapping people, knocking them cold, making them prophesy and speak in tongues, and letting it go at that.

Rather, the river of the Holy Spirit is bringing to God's people on the earth at this hour one thing needful: **forgiveness**.

If you've lost your sense of the presence of the living God it is because you have lost your vision of your own forgiveness.

- Somehow, you've forgotten where you came from, where you were brought from by God.
- You've forgotten what God has already done for you
- You've lost sight of how desperately you need God's forgiveness, day-by-day, hour-by-hour.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God...

And how do they make it glad? By conveying to them continuously that forgiveness, without which we don't even live. This River is not just for the day you got saved. Nor is it just for that time when suddenly your sin is exposed and you're embarrassed. But it's day-after-day, moment-by-moment, all the time.

Until the day when we're brought up into the fullness, the perfection of the nature of Jesus, that River of forgiveness is our life. It means that God looks down on me and sees me struggling to be like His Son, I want to be of His nature, I want to be changed. And so because of this, He accepts my bungling efforts and He keeps giving me a new start. He lifts me up in His arms and He helps me to do these things.

The cross of Jesus Christ, which is the fountainhead of this River, is not just for what I was thirty five years ago, or last week, but right now.

Daily we have to plunge into that River of Forgiveness.

Daily God has to reach down with His hand and lift us up,

..... and transform us, and change us, and make us new.

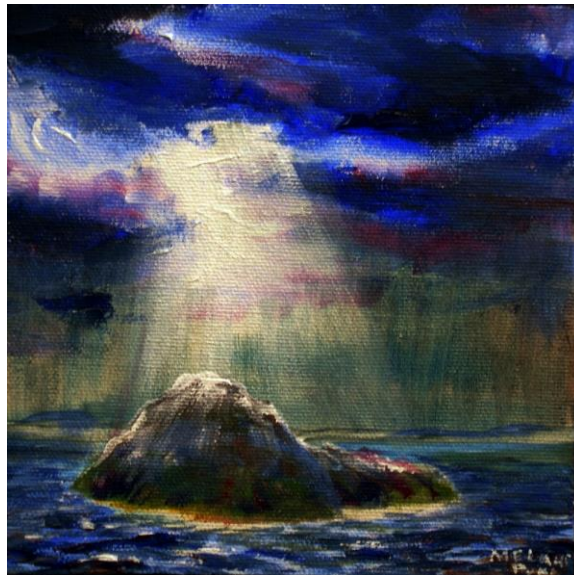
***If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins,
he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

1 John 1:8-9 (ESV)

So long as we allow the River of God's forgiveness to flow down upon us, and in us, and through us, that means that God is in us and we can't be shaken. And as long as that's happening, even if the world is falling apart around us, we won't be shaken because the war inside us is over. And when you understand that the war inside you has been ended, your warfare is accomplished, your iniquity is pardoned, then you also begin to understand that the same God who ended the war in your own heart through the blood of the Lamb is also going to end the war going on outside.

***Come, behold the works of the Lord,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.***

***“Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”***



Psalm 46 Be Still

- And how will He be exalted? ... by ending strife.
- By bringing the war to an end.

We know in the Spirit of God that the war out there is not ready to end yet. It's going to get worse. This land that has been fighting wars and causing wars in many places, is one of these days, very soon, going to see wars in its own streets. You're going to see things that will break your heart.

But while the war outside is going to get worse, the time has already come for the people of God, Zion, to experience the end of strife.

- Just as surely as the River of God is a river of forgiveness,
- So the City of God is a city of forgiveness.

- And you cannot be a citizen of that city unless you are a man or woman of forgiveness.

To be a man or woman of forgiveness has two sides.

It means that you're learning, constantly, to receive forgiveness from God.

And it means, secondly, that you're learning to give forgiveness.

There are many of us who are not even trying to receive forgiveness from God on a constant basis ... daily plunging into that river ... daily crying out for mercy... not drinking of that river.

You don't think you need it? Do you really think that you're all right?

God help you, if you think that.

***If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand? (Psalm 130:3)***

***Enter not into judgment with your servant,
for no one living is righteous before you. (Psalm 14:2)***

When you get up in the morning don't just stand there in front of the mirror and compare yourself with all the crummy sinners. When you get up in the morning, plunge into that River of life which is forgiveness, and cry out to Him for mercy.

***Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the
morning,
For in thee do I put my trust...
Teach me to do thy will,
For thou art my God and thy Spirit is good.***

Psalm 143:8&10

- Daily that's the basis of our life.

- And if we don't live in that River, we die... we go off the track on a thousand tangents.

But after I have gone down into that River, afresh today, I come up out of that River and immediately I am to start showing forgiveness to those around me, near and far.

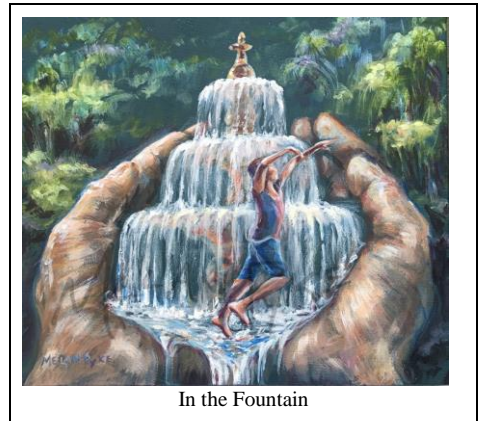
What is the City of God, my friend, what is the church, but a school of forgiveness?

It's not a club for nice people.

It's not a gathering of the elite.

And everybody who tries to make it a gathering of the elite falls under the influence of the antichrist, whether he knows it or not.

The Church of Jesus Christ in this hour is a school of forgiveness, where we learn, daily and hourly, to start showing some mercy to those around us. Maybe those sis-ters should have come to see you when you were sick. But what are you doing to yourself, and to the Body, by holding



In the Fountain

that against them, the fact that they didn't? And maybe that brother actually said those terrible things about you that were repeated to you. But what are you doing to yourself, and to the Body, by holding a grudge?

- So your sister-in-law is a hypocrite,
- and your mother made you wear long stockings when you were ten,
- and your teacher laughed at you in the third grade,
- and your best friend knifed you in the back when you were fifteen.

What are these things but exercises into coming up into the nature of God, which is mercy?

How in the world is the River of forgiveness going to flow in your home, if you won't forgive?
How's that river going to flow out through you to your children if you won't forgive?

Don't misunderstand me, I'm not advocating compromise with sin. Where there is a factious spirit, it has to be dealt with and where there is a rebellious, unforgiving, self-righteous spirit it has to be dealt with. But the instant there is the slightest spark of a desire for help, the slightest glimmer of repentance, we are to go out of our way to forgive...and even where there is no repentance at all. The offender remains hard as nails. In no case, in no case, are we to hold a grudge!

The proof that we are people of God is that we are learning, every day, by the Spirit's grace, to come down off our pedestals and forgive our husband, our wife, our child, our parent, our enemy, and even the person who's out to destroy us. How can the person who is out to destroy us succeed at destroying us if there is, in our heart, a spirit of for-giveness?

I praise God for the latter rain of the Holy Spirit that's falling upon the earth right now... for the fact that eyes are being opened...streams are flowing in the desert...lives are being refreshed ... the gifts of the Spirit are coming forth.

But, may God help us to hold very clearly in our minds that this stream of life in the Holy Spirit is not some kind of mystical force, not some metaphysical energy, not some kind of spiritual electricity.

That River is the Holy Spirit himself, who brings in himself the very nature of God which is forgiveness.

**And this River flows to us for one reason,
to transform us into a people who are forgiving.**

Granted there are many abuses to this river. There are those who are busy trying to bottle the living water and sell it. There are those who want to wash off the external crud while the inside of their life is filthy, so their experiences with the Holy Spirit, in time, be-come false and misleading to these people and to those around them.

The Spirit of God comes to me to make me a forgiving woman/man.

That's the miracle of miracles.

If I will yield to Him, He will do that.

But if I say, "No, Holy Spirit.

I want power. I want tongues. I want prophesy.

But don't touch that grudge, that I'm going to keep,"...when I do that I'm coming very, very close to the sin against the Holy Spirit for which Jesus said there is no forgiveness.

The Lord is asking us two questions:

Will you let the Holy Spirit show you, afresh today, what you've been forgiven?

Will you let the Holy Spirit bring you down from your pedestal and teach you to forgive?

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God....

That river flows among us now. The question is:

Are we allowing it to make us glad?



Giving and Receiving

Prayer-

Dear Holy, beautiful Lord forgive us for being shaken as things fall apart around us. Forgive us for forgetting that you are in the midst of it with us, for forgetting that you are in control. Help us to see your face, to sense your presence and to find the peace and beauty it brings us, daily, as we enter your River. May we not be refreshed until we dive into your cleansing River of forgiveness and mercy. Bring an end to our strife...the strife within us, the strife around us and the strife we pass on to others. Lord help us to stop damming up your mercy. Transform us into people of forgiveness, as we yield to you, as we move in the current of your River that flows with power and life bringing healing, peace and joy to all.

Original: REB...date unknown ... although found in the booklets.. *The Inner Connection to the Unseen God and the Renewed Mind* (free for the asking)
All art: Thankful for the talent and graciousness of Melani Pyke at melpyke.com. May God continue to lead her and bless her.



Maranatha Mirror Messages

mmirror.net
maranathamirror18@gmail.com
586-530-6983 (text or call)



