

Destiny's Woman

On a sun drenched shore where shimmering shades of Dusk were fading fast, her eyes aged with wisdom, scanned the horizons of her lives well past. The ebb & flow of memories matched the warm waters of the Indian Ocean as they gently wrapped around her feet, sunk in golden brown-sugar sands. Yes, He had carried her; carried and supported her over these three score years and some, when at times the waves of adversity pulled her down into a vortex of depression and despair. And yet, on 9th June 1971, the words of **Philippians 1:6**, were riveted into the very depths of her soul, branded in her memory: ***Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.***

In addition, her Heavenly Father's Promises, which could never be repealed, were her absolute assurance in her eternal security, no matter what or where her actions may have taken her:

John 10:29-30; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 4:15-16 ; especially Romans 8:38-39: For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present nor things future, nor height nor depth, nor any creature (man or angel) can separate us from the Love of God which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Without these promises she could never have carried on. Without this confidence and security, her life would have continued to flounder in constant doubt and despondency, desperately attempting to live a life by her own means and measures. Without her benevolent Lord and Almighty God, she knew with fact she should not have even reached the age of 18. Riddled with illness from the tender age of 6 weeks, even the doctors informed her mother there was nothing more they could do for the infant. Throughout her teens her health was no better, compounded by the abuse she received for years. But a fighter she was, though there were moments when she almost gave up. At the age of 8yrs, a miracle happened! ***John 11:25-26a - I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies (physically); and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die (spiritually & eternally).*** She came to personally believe in her Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. She may not have fully realised it at the time, but from that moment on, she was indwelt by the Trinity! ***John 14:23! What an unimaginable, inconceivable, indescribable Miracle!! (Pardon the similes!)*** Her life was now not her own, for she now belonged to that ***privileged Family*** of being a ***Child of God***, part of the Body of Christ!! And above all, she had the Holy Spirit to help, guide and empower her through some of the darkest periods she was to encounter: ***Luke 18:27 - The things impossible with men are possible with God.*** This was most assuredly, a Miracle!!

One of the most devastating periods was when she learned she had epilepsy. The petit mal attacks were genetic but while crossing shores on an ocean liner which was carrying her to another foreign land, a seizure caused her undue damage in the fall from which she developed grand mal epilepsy, to be borne for the rest of her life. Her father proclaimed that epilepsy was from the devil! But undoubtedly, this was brought about by the extreme stresses she was encountering at that time in her life. Small of frame the harsh medical drugs (*this was during the '60s & '70s*) were causing excessive physical and further neurological damage. One night in utter desperation, she found herself on the floor, drenched in tears of desperation, pleading with her Heavenly Father for help. She could not live this way! Emotionally and physically, waves of depression almost drowned her; she was literally at the end of her line!

However, it wasn't just the epilepsy that was pulling her down. A far deeper, darker secret challenged her every step, while nightmares swirled around her every sleeping moment. It was at this lowest point when a little booklet, *The Spirit-Filled Life* (produced by Campus Crusades), fell down in front of her. She then took a mighty step of faith, trusting totally on His Benevolent and Amazing Grace! Within the privacy of her room and with no other person present; in fact, against all medical advice, she flushed all her medications down the drain, never to be taken up again. It was at this point (June 1971, as mentioned above) that **Philippians 1:6**, became her mantra from henceforth. Once more, His Promises encouraged and carried her through those very dark days, as she fought to maintain her sanity and her spirituality:

Psalms 50:15 - *Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honour Me.*

Isaiah 41:10 - *Fear thou not; for I am with thee; Be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen you; yea, I will help you; Yea I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness.*

Now, with a yearning desire to know more about her Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ, the God of all Grace, Compassion and Love, the waves of desire combined with the ocean currents under The Creator's control, would carry her once more, to another *New Shore* and new Land, she would come to realize her destiny; meet the man she was to marry as her life-long partner; but above all, come to know her Lord & Saviour in ways she had never known previously.

Romans 11:33 - *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!*

Nevertheless, before her destiny could be realised, the great measure of scar-tissue built up on her soul over the years, had to be eradicated. She had carried this dark secret for so many years that it had become part and parcel of her life. Not any one person could even guess that this vibrant, gregarious, outspoken young lady carried such a weight. However, this desire to know her Lord more, found herself led to the Southern State of Birmingham, Alabama, where catfish is king!!! Here she would find human love and understanding; and above all, through the profound understanding and gentle guidance of the local Pastor who became her spiritual mentor, he proved to her just how through the study of God's Word, God's promises and principles would replace the nightmares and terrors and she would be free to live a life fuller and richer and freer than she could ever imagine. It was through this Pastor and another Evangelist friend, she found herself in Houston, Texas. Both these men still hold a bond with her that can never be broken!

Here, in Houston, for the next 40+ yrs, she studied on a daily basis under her Pastor of Berachah Church. Where every day, when she sat to study the Word of God, the first words she would hear from the pulpit, were: ***For the word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and the spirit, and the joints and the marrow, and is a critic of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*** Hebrews 4:12

Here, she learned more and more of God's immeasurable Grace and Love! **1 Corinthians 2:9** - *Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which no mind has conceived, all that God has prepared for those who love Him.* She learned about the power of God within her. **Psalms 46:1** - *God is our refuge and strength, a very present (and powerful!) help in time of trouble.*

She learned how one could not only live a most wonderful and fulfilling life, free from all the manmade boundaries of legalism and religious laws, but free to now be able to glorify Him more; He Who did so very much for her! She learned all about His Divine Essence; His Immeasurable Grace; His Unlimited Atoning Work on the Cross; His perfect Rationales; His irrevocable Gifts given at salvation; the difference between Pre- and Post-salvation sins; and so much more!

She learned exactly how her Heavenly Father could and does communicate with her through His Word, the Canon of Scripture. This is a treasure not fully appreciated, let alone understood by most but is so exceedingly critical to ALL situations, doubts and adversities in life. A treasure that was right there at her fingertips, for her taking! ***Psalm 25:4-5 - Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.*** And through this knowledge of her Lord, she too could become a source of help and encouragement to any other who needed it. And it was there, in Houston, in the very same church she attended, where she met her lifelong partner; who together, would travel a road unimaginable; a road that demonstrated God's Grace every step of the way. Together, they would encounter a Life..... ***unfathomable!***

Time... and greater ocean currents carried both her husband and herself onto another distant shore, to a land of exquisite beauty in its scenery, thrilling wonder in its wildlife, and tremendous potentiality in its people. Here they discovered more of God's almighty Plan. After several years of working with, getting to know its people, studying and learning the country's history, they came to realise "why" God had placed them on these shores. Missionaries of yore had evangelised, but many believers were left to their own means without further spiritual guidance, apart from very few Pastors who truly taught the Word of God in depth. Therefore, for those who sought to learn more of the Word of God, it was an "Open Door" clearly defined for them. They never, ever imagined that their Heavenly Father would deem on them the honour of being *Missionaries!* It was a humbling, thrilling, enriching and above all, a challenging responsibility, all rolled into one. But it was here, on this strange and wonderful shore where she fulfilled her Destiny! It is here where her many lives had come full circle; where the waves of the Indian Ocean were once again lapping at her feet. Where today, with her husband, she can share in the knowledge and complete understanding of His Will and Plan for their lives. They are both confident in His Geographical Will, and totally operating within His Operational Will. Their Almighty Lord and Master had created a life so full, so rich, so very incredible, most could not comprehend it; they hardly did! ***Isaiah 58:11 - The Lord will continually guide you always; He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land (Africa and Adversities) and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.***

The words of Annie Johnson Flint's hymn, "***He Giveth More Grace,***" (her story is on their website) and the notes of John Nelson Darby, "Because of Me," would only be an emotional, momentary lift, if not for His Word, which is the very Mind of Christ taught with such depth and intensity by her current Pastor, following in the steps of his father.

As years draw on, memories become more treasured. She longed to find the friends she left behind on those distant shores; friends who meant so dear. Then her heavenly Father answered her prayers: United once more with friends, some not seen in over 20yrs, her heart overflowed with joy and emotion. They say a man has done well when he has one friend; but "rich" when he has five. Well, she may not have had a real country to call her own, but her wealth in friends not even Midas could touch! It is this love, this friendship, and above all the prayer support that continues to be such refreshment and encouragement to her soul and also to their ministry.

However, through all those years, over all those waves, in the midst of all her instability, was a single source of quiet, interminable stability. Her "gipsy" days of restless ways, saw her wandering the world on cruise ships - her means of "escape" from her depressing years. Yet, her treasured memory is one of a lone figure, standing valiantly on the pier, waiting and watching for her ship to sail in, to accompany her daughter home, no matter the time. When the doctors informed her that she could drop dead then and there from her throwing away her epileptic meds, this same figure wrapped her arms around her, stating, "*It's ok darling, God is faithful, He will answer your prayer!*" Then, when shame and disgrace washed over family, this stalwart never wavered; once more her words rang true: "*God knows all the facts; He will take care of the matter.*"

This unwavering faith in the face of the utmost odds was an intractable example to her! And when Alzheimer's finally robbed her mother of her memory when she would not know even her own daughters, this daughter, witnessed firsthand how God's Grace overruled, even in this disease. Alzheimer's never held her bedridden; rather, her sense of humour, her gracious and thoughtful attitude to the staff at the Home at which she resided, was a Witness to her Lord's Grace and Love, right up to her very end. Hence, her death, as in life, was beautiful! On an Easter Monday, in dying-grace she slipped into a brief coma; shortly after hearing this daughter's voice she departed this interim earth to her glorious and eternal Home, to meet Her Lord and Saviour, face to face.

Psalm 116:15 - *Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His godly ones.*

John 11:25 - *I am the resurrection and the life; **he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies.***

Now, as the waves of Time wash over their years, more doors are opening for her husband and herself, as God's Grace is multiplied in ways too great to even express in mere words. The words of her Pastor, on the day he married them in 1977, still ring true and powerfully strong, through the years and lives she continues to live: **May the Integrity of God carry this marriage!** Our Lord continues to carry us, as we continue on this marvellous journey which He Himself has laid out for us!! Her now unshakable confidence continues to rest in these words: **Being confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians1:6**

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