

“Steadiness In Change”

By Mrs. Sojourner

The Sojourner commented to me the other day how many people did not seem to understand that all change does not cause chaos and confusion. Change does include a shifting of the gears in one’s life and some things may seem awkward or unsteady for a time, but change is not all bad or chaotic.

The Lord brought a picture of a boat in the ocean to my mind about that time. I realized that a boat is surrounded by the constant motion of waves, but it’s not chaotic and it (on a clear day) does not stop the boat from getting to it’s destination. Yes, the people on the boat do have to get their “sea legs” so they are accustomed to the constant motion of the waves around them, but that constant motion is part of the journey, it does not hinder the journey.

Looking in the scriptures we see many examples of people who had waves of change all around them but they kept their hearts set on our Heavenly Father and the boat of their life kept moving forward toward the goals



Notes:

God had for them despite any movement of the waves.

Jacob had numerous changes throughout his life (see Genesis 27-35). He was loved and favored by his mother, later hated by his brother, cheated by his father-in-law, reunited to his brother, lost his favorite son, reunited to his favorite son and moved to Egypt and was saved from the drought. Jacob knew the promise God had given his grandfather Abraham and the blessing that rested on he and his descendants as a result of this promise.

Yes, there were waves that rocked the boat of Jacob’s life, some significant, but Jacob kept his faith in God and His promise, and God kept His promise, and Jacob’s life reached the destination God had for it.

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...with The Sojourner

“Your Problem, God’s Victory” (Teaching Sketch)

Hebrews 11:33-35

Do you find yourself focused on a problem^[1] rather than the solution to a problem. Perhaps the solution is not always known but must be sought. Do you remember when you were in math class in school and you would be given a problem to be solved? Some people enjoy solving math problems or any kind of problem for that matter. Some people, on the other hand, do not enjoy solving problems and will do almost anything to avoid dealing with or solving a problem.

When we look at the definition of the word “problem” we find a problem is, “a difficulty that needs to be solved.” If we look at where Gideon is found in Judges 6 you will find Gideon solving a problem caused by another, bigger, problem. He was simply attempting to make flour for food in a wine press because of the oppressors which invaded the land given



Notes:
[1]
-a state of difficulty that needs to be resolved
-trouble:
a source of difficulty

[2]
Deut.
32:30

[3]
Romans
8:37

to the Children of Israel. Gideon was doing as many do. Many people live within a large problem and attempt to solve the smaller problems occurring within the larger problem, often suffering unnecessarily due to applying their energies either with the wrong instrument/weapon or toward the wrong problem.

Problems Happen

No matter what, there will always be problems, or what is better called challenges, to be solved, dealt with, or avoided. There is not any way to completely avoid problems. Some problems are beyond a person’s ability to solve. Some problems can only be solved corporately (“One can put a thousand to flight and two can put a thousand to flight”^[2]).

Who Through Faith?

Who through faith? You through faith! “Me,” you say? Yes, you! The scripture says a believer can do ALL things through Christ who strengthens the Be-

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

Scripture:

Hebrews 11:33-35 (NIV)

Hebrews 11:33-35 (KJV)

33Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions.

34Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

35Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

Notes:

Hebrews 11:33-35 (NIV)

33who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions,

34quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. 35Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection.

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liever.^[3] Be very careful what you say about this because a Believer needs to be in line with the Word! If the Word says it, then it is possible! “How can this be,” you say? Because the Word says the same spirit that raised Christ from the dead lives in the Believer!

Subdued Kingdoms

God has always given believers the ability to overthrow even kingdoms. Gideon, Moses, and Joshua all found that they could be conquerors. Today, in this age the Believer can be more than a conquer through Christ.^[3] Believers are called to subdue the adversary, Satan.

Administered Justice

The writer of Hebrews talks of justice being brought by God’s servants.

Obtained Promises

The Children of Israel never did occupy all the territory God had given them. Believers need not make the same mistake. We must not look at the problem of obtaining the promised, as Israel did in the wilderness, but the ability of the power of God to work in and through we who believe to obtain all God has promised.

Just so you’ll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during “Praise & Worship” (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

