

June 10, 08

*“Praise be to the Lord, for he has heard my cry for mercy.
The Lord is my strength and my shield;
My heart trusts in him, and I am helped.
My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song.
The Lord is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one.
Save your people and bless your inheritance;
Be their shepherd and carry them forever.”
Psalm 28: 6-9*

In this time of losing our home, I take great comfort and strength from these verses. To think that David wrote these over 2000 years ago affirms my emotions as well as the existence and the goodness of God that surpasses all time and culture. David wrote these verses while also being driven out from his home, as I do today. We are just days away from the final foreclosure date, boxes all around me as I write. I wasn't sure I even had time or the energy for devotions. But the truth is I do not have the time or the energy not to spend with my Lord. He truly is my strength and shield and my heart cries out to Him as David's did. Oh how we need for Him to bless our inheritance in Him and to be our Shepherd on this journey to a new temporary home. All our houses here on earth are just temporary anyway; our true home is in Him and with Him. Living in His Spirit and His Spirit living in me is more than enough to make my heart leap for joy and to give thanks to Him in song.

As David was comforted by God's loving Spirit in this time of loss and uncertainty, so am I. He knows my fragile state and the temporary security I often cling to. He is aware of my sorrow and my fears; He will sustain and comfort me. I am already stronger in my present circumstances just from being reminded today that I am not alone. He is my home, and He is my good Shepherd who will carry me home.

Marilyn Williams
June 10, 2008

My Inheritance is in Christ!

June 27, 08

“Lord, you alone are my inheritance, my cup of blessing. You guard all that is mine. The land you have given me is a pleasant land. What a wonderful inheritance!”

Psalm 16:5-6

One day a wealthy estate owner took a friend to the third floor of his palatial manor to show him the extent of his landholdings. Gesturing out the window to the west, he said, “All that you can see is mine.”

The guest said nothing.

Then the owner added, “Can you see that farmhouse at a distance? That belongs to me, too.” They walked to the east side and once again the owner pointed out the window. “Can you see that valley down there? I own that, too.”

Finally the guest spoke up. “Just beyond that valley is a little village, and I know a woman in that village who lives in a small cottage. But she can say more than that.”

Oh, what can she say?” asked the owner.

The guest responded, “She can say, ‘Christ is mine.’”

How truly blessed I am Lord to have an inheritance that cannot be taken away. I cannot even lose it, lest I blatantly give it away. No amount of injustice, my own mistakes, or even my own sin can keep me from the inheritance that is mine in Christ! And what an inheritance that is, Lord. Christ owns everything and Christ does not withhold anything He owns from me. He is really good at sharing! In the midst of insurmountable financial as well as emotional loss, remind me of how rich I really am, Lord. Not only do you share everything with me, Lord, but you are my inheritance. Your rich and encompassing presence goes with me into unwanted moves, loss of jobs, house, and even loved ones. Your presence is fuller than any loss I can experience. I am deeply grateful for the fullness and the generosity of your Spirit. An old Scottish Psalter once wrote

I'm an heir of the King, Hallelujah;
He safeguards my treasures each day.
He gives me the joy of his presence
And leads me along the right way.

I am reminded of the Levites in the Old Testament Lord. They were appointed your priests just as each and every one of us in the New Testament are today. In Numbers 18:20 you forbid them from owning land. They were the only tribe who did not receive a portion of the promised land for themselves because they were called to be your Priests over all the other tribes. You said to Aaron, the first Priest of Israel, “You will have no inheritance in their land, nor will you have any share among them; I am your share and your inheritance among the Israelites.” This comforts me today in my loss of our land and our home. I am your Priest today and I have not lost my true inheritance-YOU LORD! Everything else we own in this lifetime is really yours anyways. Our true inheritance is you and no one and nothing can take you away from us. We are truly blessed!

Scriptures to ponder:

-Romans 8:17, "Since we are his children, we will share in his treasures-for everything God gives to his Son, Christ, is ours too."

-Ephesians 1:11, "Because of Christ, we have received an inheritance from God."

-Colossians 2:2 "...so that you may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

-Matthew 6:19-21 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

I will never inherit or leave an inheritance of any greater value than that of Christ!
How wonderful that we can confidently claim Christ as our own!

Marilyn Williams
June 27, 2008