

A word of testimony
Tuesday 23rd November 2010

For the word of God is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and is able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

I would like to share a short testimony of how, once again, I have found God true to His Word and how, by His grace, he has worked this scripture through in my life.

The storms of life had engulfed me. Sometimes the storms came suddenly and unexpectedly, sometimes it was a slow trickle, a wearing down. But I was consumed by a fog I couldn't find my way out of.

Reading the Bible had become a chore. It felt so dry, yet I knew I had to keep pressing on if I was going to find my way out of the barrenness. It was an act of the will to pray; I didn't feel like it, in fact praying felt like I was talking to myself!

At these times I often find it easier to write my prayers rather than speak them. God hears our prayers whatever medium they reach Him by! He looks to our hearts.

I **knew** in my head that God was with me and I kept walking by faith, trusting that even though I couldn't feel His presence His presence was with me. There are times in our Christian walk when we just have to keep walking by faith but there are also times when we crave to **feel** the presence of God and this was most certainly one of those times! And so that was the prayer I wrote to God, "Lord, I want to **feel** You with me in this."

Not knowing that this was the desire of my heart a faithful, praying friend sent me a text:

"Father God, I pray Catherine will **feel** You walking with her hand in hand as she faces these trials....." Wow! God was listening, He read my prayer! That encouraged me greatly to plough on and keep trying to seek God even though I felt numb.

That day I pondered on Psalm 23 and how it talked of the Good Shepherd leading us to a place of rest. I also pondered on Matthew 11 v 28-30:
"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

But I didn't get it! "How, Lord? How **do** I give You these burdens I'm feeling? I **know** you can take them upon yourself but I don't know **how** to hand them over. I want this weight off me but I don't know **how** to do that. Please show me, Lord."

The next morning I woke up feeling a little better but still empty and burdened. As I ate breakfast I whispered an arrow prayer to God in my heart. "Lord, I feel like I need keyhole surgery! I need something from your word to pierce this darkness, to pierce it so that the pressure of these burdens can be released."

And God answered my prayer instantly! Once again my faithful, praying friend sent a text, knowing nothing of my request to God:
"Psalm 75 v 3: When the earth and all its people quake, it is I who hold its pillars firm."

Instantly the darkness was pierced, there was my keyhole surgery! Suddenly I understood how to apply those scriptures I'd been studying the previous day. I saw a picture in my mind of a temple; strong pillars were holding the roof up and my burdens were piled up on that roof. The roof had been pressing down so heavily on my shoulders, that's why I'd felt so burdened. But in the picture I saw the mighty arms of God, the pillars, push the roof up and off me. Whilst I stood below He was now holding the burdens, not me!

I sent a text of thanks to my friend. She replied, "It was God, I randomly opened my Bible and my eyes fell there and as I read it He spoke your name."

Wow! How amazing. I couldn't hear God for myself because of my despair so He whispered my name to a praying friend.

So has everything changed? Have my burdens disappeared? No! In fact another storm hit the next day! Jesus didn't promise that we wouldn't face trials; He promised to be with us **in** them. But here's the difference....my perspective has changed. I see God at work in my circumstances far more clearly again. When challenges come my way and I know I can't face them without Him I whisper to myself, "Put that on the roof!" I picture the burden on the roof of the temple with His strong arms as the pillars lifting the pressure off me.

And here's another thing! The next day He showed me another angle on the picture. I'm still underneath the roof, the burdens are still on the roof, He's still holding the roof off me, but He's holding my hand, He's a great big God; He can see above the roof and although the pressures feel huge to me, from His high perspective they are small. He is able.

I thank God for the circle of faithful, praying friends He has placed around me in these storms and I thank Him for His majestic presence in the midst of the circle. He truly is the peace in the eye of the storm.

Thank you, Lord Jesus. I love you.