



bloodline network newsletter

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COMING HOME

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

MATTHEW 11:28-30

There comes a moment for all of us when life experiences reach a point where we simply desire something more. We want something better—especially after a difficulty or disappointment.

At times it's a longing for God to fill the emptiness—if I touch God then everything will be perfect. We don't worry about where we've been ... how we look ... or how much money we make. We just want God—everything will be okay if we can find our way back to Him.

= COMING HOME

Then Jacob said ... "You have troubled me by making me obnoxious among the inhabitants of the land ... and since I am few in number, they will gather themselves together against me and kill me. I shall be destroyed, my household and I "... Then God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there, and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother."

GENESIS 34:30- 35:1

This wasn't the first time Jacob felt overwhelmed and desperate. He needed a safe place like he did years earlier when he fled from his brother Esau. At that time he was all alone in a wilderness place and God appeared to him in a dream to tell him he'd be okay. Jacob said, *"How awesome is this place! This is none other than the HOUSE OF GOD, and this is the GATE of HEAVEN!"*

Jacob's sons killed all the males and plundered a city because their sister Dinah was defiled. Jacob felt extremely vulnerable. God told him to come home—to return to his experience at Bethel. Bethel literally means 'House of God.'

We'd also feel hopeless if our circumstances caused us to forget who we are or what we're meant to do—our Identity and Purpose. But if we do, we'd benefit in taking a journey back to our own Bethel experience. Placing ourselves back in the familiar surroundings of a BETHEL EXPERIENCE allows the grace of God to flow freely to us. We reactivate or renew God's promise to us by COMING HOME—and it jumpstarts our confidence.

= **WHAT IF WE LOSE OUR WAY HOME?**

Look, I go forward, but He is not there, And backward, but I cannot perceive Him; When He works on the left hand, I cannot behold Him; When He turns to the right hand, I cannot see Him. But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold ... whatever His soul desires, that He does. For He performs what is appointed for me. ... I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.... **JOB**

Job was in great pain and heartache—his children died in a storm, he lost his property and then his health. He didn't know what was happening to him and felt abandoned. He wanted to talk to God but didn't know how to reach Him.

We know what its like to feel everything pressing in on us ... we want an escape but where do we go? How do we find our way home? Just as God knew how to find Job—He'll find each of us.

Where do we go? Once, feeling overwhelmed, I called out to God to help me and saw someone throw a rope down to me—like a lifeline. But the pull of Earth's gravity made it difficult to climb up. A voice called down for me to rest—that I didn't have to pull myself up. Looking up I saw someone pulling me up. I stopped striving to make it up the rope by my efforts and noticed a place I could sit on the rope, (like a swing). I RESTED in what He did for me—I was COMING HOME.

= **HEARTFELT PRAYER**

And If I go to prepare a place for you, I will COME again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know. ...I am the way, the truth, and the life. **JOHN 14:3-6**

In the book *THE WIZARD OF OZ* by L. Frank Baum, the character Dorothy found her way home by closing her eyes ... clicking her shoes together ... and earnestly repeating, "I want to go home." Although fiction—it beautifully portrays the power of heartfelt prayer.

Heartfelt prayers trace the path to the throne room of Almighty God. It's a conscious effort—we put our WHOLE HEART and SOUL into our PRAYER and it bypasses the natural realm. Like Dorothy, we find ourselves ... "Somewhere over the Rainbow ... Where dreams really do come true." Prayer searches the SOMEWHERE that's beyond our reach and discovers the way home.

= **SOMEWHERE**

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? How precious also are Your thoughts towards me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; when I awake, I am still with You. PSALMS 139:17-18

Prayer petitions God where He is—it's COMING HOME in Him. The same Power that moves the world now moves on our behalf.

We're not forcing something to happen in prayer—we're simply aligning to the ONLY Power that cannot be stopped. God always knows where we are and how to reach us. He sends His THOUGHTS to us—surrounding us with His love.

The magic of prayer HAPPENS when we join our will to His ... and opening our eyes—we see God's hand in operation in our life—Providence makes all things possible.

= **PRESENT HELP IN TIME OF TROUBLE**

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling. There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the HOLY PLACE of the Tabernacle of the Most High. PSALMS 46:1-4

Anytime we feel confusion or distress we can call on God. He is a refuge for our soul to hold onto. God remains the strength of our hearts. Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

It was trust in God's faithfulness that made Martin Luther fearless. Inspired by Psalm 46 he wrote the hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." Martin Luther and his companions faced death many times but remained steadfast reformers. God was their refuge and strength.

David wrote of the river of life as living water streaming towards us in divine thoughts. God's grace and favor is unfathomable—the force and power of His grace makes our heart glad. The "city of God" refers to the Holy Place, Temple, New Jerusalem, or Church. It's in COMING HOME to His Tabernacle that our soul finds rest.

= **HOUSE OF GOD**

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. HEBREWS 10:24-25

Paul wrote to the Hebrews not to forsake GATHERING TOGETHER. He's not writing about a church building but a Body of Believers. Church means 'called out ones.' There are difficulties that each of us endures but in RELATIONSHIP with a Church Body—the brethren help to carry our burden.

We each function in different spiritual gifts that strengthen the Body. When we go through trials, it's the 'brethren' who lend a hand and steady our course in the turbulent seas. We help each other.

Collectively we are the Body of Christ. We don't have all the answers individually, but collectively we are part of a BODY that does.

Finding a place of worship connects us to a team ... unit ... battalion ... flock ... family ... Body of believers ... Church ... We have opportunity to bless and be blessed by one another's anointing and gifting.

= **COME TO ME ...**

When I first sought the Lord, I didn't know He was already in me, that I was seeking after what I already had. But I was determined that I'd have the Holy Spirit by Sunday morning ... yet at 11:30 Saturday evening I was still trying. Because of the lateness of the hour I finally stopped 'trying' and chose to bless Jesus instead. I wanted to lift back up to Him the measure of love He poured on me. With all that was in me I tried to enter into the divine space I felt around me and in me ... lifting love back up to God with all my heart ... I entered an awesome doorway and beheld the Face of God!

Jesus was a formidable Presence standing in my bedroom that night ... yet He spoke to me in an exceptionally gentle manner ... actually extending His arms to me. He told me not to be afraid but to COME and learn of Him; He would never leave me alone, He would always take care of me and that I should never be afraid. Somewhere in this I began magnifying God in another language! It was an amazing experience that you all can relate to with similar testimonies that exhilarate you as much as I feel writing this.

In this holy space I exerted no energy and yet I was infused with a supernatural power that changed my heart, mind, spirit and purpose forever! I was swept along like a petal on a summer breeze. I wasn't fighting against anything—I was tenderly transported to His Presence and it was like COMING HOME!

= **LET US EXALT HIS NAME TOGETHER**

I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make its boast in the Lord; the humble shall hear of it and be glad. Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name TOGETHER.

PSALMS 34:1-3

There are many times when we GATHER TOGETHER with believers that we sense the ineffable feeling of COMING HOME. It's not the locality, but rather the coming home of our soul back to God. It's the overwhelming effect of grace on our emotions as we unconsciously retraced our steps back to the Source of our existence.

It's in COMING HOME that we experience the unspeakable joy of peace ... peace of mind and tranquility of the soul.

Believing in Christ and coming to Christ are synonymous. They that come to God must believe ... and they that believe in God are always COMING HOME to Him.

Roger and Karen Roth are the set ministry of a local church in Northeastern Wisconsin. They are a ministry son of Dr. Hanby, and along with writing the Bloodline articles each month, they are directors of a portion of Dr. Hanby's ministry called THE FATHER'S HEART.

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