**TREASURES OF DARKNESS**

**HIDDEN RICHES IN SECRET PLACES**

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This Newsletter is dedicated to those who are suffering and going through a dark time. The Lord wants you to know to keep praying and trusting. Good things come out of the hard places!

**GOD KNOWS WHERE YOU ARE**

 Aren’t you glad to know as you read this Newsletter that God truly Loves you? He knows you! You are in His everlasting arms and held by His strong Hand. Every day and night, you are in His thoughts of Mercy. The Psalmist David said – Lord, you know my down-sitting and my uprising and you understand my thoughts afar off. You are acquainted with all my ways. There’s not a word in my tongue that you don’t know it. There’s no place I could ever go from thy Spirit or be hid from thy presence. If I’d take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even THERE shall thy Hand Lead me and thy right hand shall Hold me. If I say – surely the Darkness shall cover me, even the night shineth as the day. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee. (Ps. 139)

 David was saying, Lord, you know all about me no matter where I am or where I go in life. It may be dark where I’m walking right now and it may be my night season, but if I hold on you’ll bring something good out of my trial.

 God spoke through the prophet to His people in **Isaiah 45:3** – I will give thee the Treasures of Darkness, and Hidden Riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I the Lord, which call thee by name, am the God of Israel.

**THE TREASURES OF DARKNESS**

 Isn’t it noteworthy that the Holy Ghost would use this term? Who ever heard of such things? You would think God only operates in the day, that good things only come out of the bright times. But No, darkness has produced some of the greatest things ever known to man. Some of the

biggest blessings have come out of the night seasons.

It was Job in his trial and time of suffering that uttered these words: **Job 12:22** – God Discovereth Deep Things out of Darkness and bringeth out to light the shadow of death. After months of suffering and loss Job said – Behold, I go forward, but He is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive Him, on the left hand where He doth work, (He’s working but I can’t see it) but I cannot behold Him and on the right hand I cannot see Him. But He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. (Job 23) What if Job had given up and given in? He would have never been blessed in the latter end! He never would have come out of his trial. He never would have known the joy of being restored! He utilized his time in the Night Season by praying and trusting in His God. It was the darkest time in his life. Everything he believed before, his theology, his very faith was being strained and put to the test. But somehow deep inside he knew it was a test, it wasn’t going to last forever, God had been too good to him and he was going to hold on. How long this trial lasted, we do not know. But, he spoke these words: Till I die I will not remove mine integrity from me. My righteousness I hold fast and will not let it go! (Job 27:5-6) Job said - But none saith, Where is God my Maker, who giveth Songs in the Night? (Job 35:10)

 I remember back in the year 1996 when I went through one of the darkest times in my life. Everything that could go wrong went wrong for a whole year. It was 12 whole months of break-downs, trouble and confusion. Our van was run into by a big truck. It stayed in the shop for literally weeks for no reason. I made phone calls asking why. It was one delay after the other. We purchased a beautiful double-wide mobile home, special ordered it with special things inside. It came out of White Pigeon Michigan. Two trucks brought it in and had to park the two halves in a field at the mobile home dealership where we ordered it because of the rain.

It was the month of May and it rained and rained, the ground was soaked, the streams overflowed for weeks and I couldn’t get our beautiful home moved onto our property. When they parked it on the field, there were other trailers there also. When they backed mine in, they ran it into one of the other mobile homes and tore the whole top corner up, peeled it back, crunching it in from the shingled roof down the side exposing the wood. It twisted it so bad that the bedroom door inside on that end of the trailer would not close. The frame was bent sideways. The rains finally ceased and they were able to move it on our property. The dealership sent out a man to work on it and repair all the damage inside and out.

At this same time our Washer went out and could not be fixed. We had to purchase a new one. We were hit from all angles. There were several other things that happened that year along with this. It was a time of stress, aggravation and even anger. The amazing thing about it all, God was silent! I could not feel Him. I remember Mary and I went to my Mom and Dad’s to visit. I was in the back lawn having a pity party walking back and forth shuffling my feet through the grass. My mother came out and walked down to me and said – “Son, don’t lose your Song! Keep singing!” I will never forget that. I lived and I walked by faith for months. I still preached, taught Sunday School and sang God’s praises and songs of Zion. Eventually things started changing. Everything turned around and there was a healing. A restoration came to my soul. Looking back all those years from where I am today, I see that it was just a trial, the suffering has now been forgotten. God brought me through and I am blessed. It lets me know that we can turn our trials and tears into treasure by simply going on trusting the Lord and remaining faithful. Yes, our God giveth songs in the night!

 So, how can there be Treasures in Darkness? We look at darkness as a place of dread and fear, when we think there’s nothing there but bad, defeat and failure. We consider Darkness as all negative, but how does God see it? Dear Child, our Omnipotent Lord has some of the greatest blessings and good in store right in our night season of trial. During those times that we are walking in a dark place, is when we draw closer to God! David’s prayer was this – **Ps. 17:3** – Thou hast visited me in the Night. **Vs. 7** – Shew thy marvelous Lovingkindness O Lord. Darkness shows us things that we could never see otherwise. It was Napoleon that once stated – The stars are all the proof I want of the existence of God. Have you ever seen the Stars shine on a bright sunny day? It takes Darkness to reveal these celestial bodies in the heavens. You must look up to see them! And just to think God has everyone of them named and there are billions of them. How sweet to know Jesus referred to Himself as the Bright and Morning Star in Revelation 22:16.

 It was Micah the prophet who said – “When I sit in Darkness, the Lord shall be a Light to me.” **(Micah 7:8)**

**JOHN BUNYAN**

John Bunyan in the early to mid - 1600’s was thrown into the Bedford prison for Preaching the Gospel of Christ. His wife pleaded for his release. His little daughter was allowed to come in the prison and set on his lap begging for him to come home. They informed him that he could go free if he would quit preaching. He refused. He said – if they let me out right now, I will go right back out and preach Christ. He spent 12 long years in prison because he wouldn’t quit preaching Jesus. History says he was cheerful. He made the statement that he had true freedom. In the prison he read his Bible and sang hymns. You might say – what good came out of those 12 long years? He was allowed to write while he was in prison and out of his writings came the book “Pilgrims Progress” the second most read book in the world except the Bible. It continues to bless and change lives throughout the world. Utilize your time Children and spend it for God. Be faithful in the little things. Maintain a prayer life and in due season you will see the Hand of God move.

**FANNY CROSBY**

 The Lord allowed Fanny J. Crosby to go into the Dark Room of blindness. When she was just 6 weeks old she caught a cold which caused her eyes to inflame. A traveling doctor applied mustard plaster – a paste made from ground mustard seed to the infants eyes. If left on the skin for too long it can cause first-degree burns or at least this was Fanny’s side of the story. Fanny never resented her condition.

You might say – what good came out of this tragedy and life of blindness? There is nothing good that can come out of her Darkness! Oh yes there is: She wrote over 8,000 gospel songs that continue to give Christians new hope and courage around the world. She said – “I might not have sung hymns to the Praise of God if I had been distracted by beautiful and interesting things about me!”

**GEORGE A. YOUNG**

George Young was an obscure preacher and carpenter who spent a lifetime humbly serving God in small country churches. Often there was only enough money for a meager existence. But Young and his wife were faithful and never wavered in their loyalty to God and His service. Finally, through much sacrifice, the family was able to move into their own small home, which they had built themselves. There was a group of hoodlums in the area who disliked the preacher’s Gospel message. While Young was away holding meetings, they set fire to his house, leaving nothing but a heap of ashes. But God gave George Young a song of Praise in his Darkness of persecution. **He wrote**: In shady green pastures, so rich and sweet, God leads His children along; Where the water’s cool flow bathes the weary one’s feet, God leads His children along. Some through the water, some thru the flood, some through the fire, but all thru the Blood. Some through great sorrow, but God gives a song. In the Night Season and all day long.”

**GOD’S NATURE SPEAKS TO US**

 There is a Bird of the Thrush family found in the south of Ireland, called “The Storm Thrush,” from its peculiar love of storms. In the wildest storms of rain and wind it flies to the very topmost twig of the highest tree and there pours out its beautiful Song – it’s frail perch swaying in the wind.

 One man said he went to bed one night and had several troubling dreams. He had been going through a trial. There were things he was trying to forget and praying about things that he felt would never come. He fell off to sleep worrying and troubled in heart. He said - I woke early and I heard a Lark singing and it was hardly light yet. I could not understand the language of the little bird’s song but it was full of joy. Here I was so disturbed and yet this little fellow was out yonder telling the whole neighborhood how joyous he was. He was perched on the old rail fence, his feathers drenched. It had rained all night and he was poorly housed. What comfort could he have had through the Dark Night bathed in the storm? Yet with his little head high he chattered with all his might – his song was from the heart! Then I shook myself: The shame that a Lark has more poise than a man!

 Nothing can break you as long as you sing! Paul and Silas sang to God in the inner prison and the Lord shook the place, off came their stocks, the doors were opened and their bands loosed. Yes, our God gives Songs in the Night – there are treasures in the Darkness. The Holy Ghost moves, touches and blesses when we Sing and give Praise!

 A beautiful story is told of the little birds whose nest had been ruined. As the poet walked among the trees in his garden after the storm, he found a torn nest lying on the ground. He began to brood sadly over it, pitying the birds whose home had been wrecked. But as he stood there and meditated, he heard a twittering and singing over his head. He looked up and saw the birds building again their ruined nest! Lord, help us take lessons from the little birds. Jesus said they don’t sow, they don’t reap or gather into barns, yet our Heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? O how good our God is and what He will do for His children who seek the Kingdom of God and put Him first!

**THE DIVINE GARDENER KNOWS BEST**

 There is a little fable which says that a Primrose growing by itself in a shady corner of the garden became discontented as it saw the other flowers in their nice beds in the sunshine, and it begged to be moved to a more attractive place. It’s prayer was granted. The gardener transplanted it to a more showy and sunny spot. The little Primrose was greatly pleased, but there came a change over it immediately. Its blossoms lost much of their beauty, and became pale and sickly. The hot sun caused them to faint and wither. So, it prayed to be taken back to its old place in the shade. There it regained its strength and began to thrive. The wise gardener knew best where to plant each flower.

 So, God, our Divine Husbandman, knows where His children will best grow into what He would have them to be. Some require the fierce storms; some will only thrive Spiritually in the shadow of worldly adversity; and some come to ripeness more sweetly under the soft and gently influences of prosperity, whose beauty rough experiences would mar. Humbolt, the great naturalist and traveler said that the most wonderful sight he had ever seen was a Primrose flourishing on the bosom of a glacier. The brightest souls which glory ever knew were rocked in storms and nursed when tempests blew. Let us make a pulpit out of every circumstance and work where the Lord Calls and places us!

**GLORY WILL COME OUT OF SUFFERING**

 **Rom. 8:18** - For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the Glory which shall be revealed in us.

In an old book written by the Scottish preacher and song writer George Matheson in the 1800’s are found these heartening words: “There is coming a time in which your glory shall consist in the very thing which now constitutes your pain. Nothing could be more sad to Jacob than the ground on which he was lying in the middle of a dark night with a stone for his pillow! It was the hour of his poverty. It was the season of his night. It was the seeming absence of his God. The Lord was in the place and he knew it not! Awakened from his sleep he found that the day of his trial was the dawn of his triumph! Just ask the great ones from the past what has been the spot of their prosperity and they will tell you – “It was the cold ground on which I was lying in a dark time I was going through!” Ask Abraham and he will point you to the sacrifice on Mt. Moriah. It was that rugged steep hill he climbed with his son to offer him to the Lord. Ask Joseph and he will direct you to a deep pit and a dark prison he spent time in, but it was there he found God Faithful. The presence of the Lord was with him and he discovered the hidden treasures of darkness when he was promoted to the throne. Ask Moses and he will date his fortune from the dangers in a little ark of bulrushes daubed with slime and pitch hid among the cattails of the muddy Nile river. He’ll point you to 40 long years on the backside of a desert with a flock of sheep. It was there He met God and saw His glory in a burning bush. Ask Ruth and she will tell you to build her monument in the field of her toil. It was there she met her Redeemer! Ask David and he will tell you that many of his Psalms and hymns of praise that have blessed many through the ages were squeezed out of the tears of trial. His Songs came in the dark times. Ask Job and he will tell you his answer came when God spoke to him out of a whirlwind. Ask Peter and he will point you out to the middle of a stormy sea in a dark night of trial when his Lord pulled him from the drowning waves, lifted him back on board the old boat and made a minister of faith out of him. Ask the great Apostle Paul and he will tell you that his Inspiration came from the Great Light that struck him blind. It was on that Damascus road he was introduced to the Son of God in Glory bright. Ask John the Beloved and He will tell you he met his resurrected Lord Jesus on a barren island where he was left to die.

Ask *One More:* Ask the precious Son of God, the Saviour of mankind and He will tell you – “I came from the Glory world from my Father who sent me. I condescended, came down to a sin cursed world. I came to heal the hurting, to save and redeem fallen man. I’ve drunk from life’s bitter cup, tasted the tears of sorrow, waded through deep waters of suffering. I know about Gethsemane and the cold ground on which I was lying in the middle of a dark night. I know all about the seasons of suffering and trial. But, I can tell you that death leads to Life. I bore the Cross, now I wear a crown. I received my Scepter. The Lamb has become a Lion and the Lion has now become the King.

Dear child, you will have your Gethsemane’s. You too will drink from life’s cup both the bitter and the sweet. But remember, the cup you must drink from will one day be your coronet in the sweet by and by. The hour of your loneliness will one day crown thee. The day of thy depression will regale and honor you. Your desert will break forth into singing and the trees of the field will clap their hands. The last things will be first in the sweet by and by. The thorns will give way to the most beautiful Roses. They will always bloom. The valleys will be filled, the crooked places straight and the rough places made smooth. Hold on child, your Glory is coming!!” The dayspring from on high has visited us. The shadows will soon flee away and we will bask in Glorious light for eternity. The tears you’ve shed will be tracks of Gold, troubles turned to Treasure and the Lord will say to you – “Thy Treasure is hid in the ground, where you were lying!”

Children, be faithful in the Place God has called you. Your labor for the Lord is not in vain. Your work will be rewarded. May God Bless my Readers!