

Learning to Surrender

February 27 Read: John 14:27; 16:31-33 Gertie Fictorie

Jesus said these words in the hours or day just before He went to his death. In spite of having heard these words, imagine the awful fear that his confused disciples must have had as He was arrested, tortured and horribly abused. Then when He died, their absolute worst fear was realized.

Even though I know these words as well, I also become afraid easily. I think of all the “what ifs:” what if I lose my spouse or a child, what if a child rejects God, what if we lose our livelihood. Etc. What helps me change my way of thinking is to acknowledge that in most ways I am powerless and that my job is to trust and obey God who has overcome the world.

Now imagine the absolute joy, the glorious relief, the elation and gratitude Jesus' helpless followers felt when they realized that He had conquered death and as they became aware of his awesome plan. After Jesus went back to heaven leaving his Spirit, they continued their walk, trusting and obeying God like never before.

And even though his followers had the privilege to see God's salvation plan happen before their eyes, they did face other troubles and did not always understand God's plan. Like them, we all experience the consequences of a sinful world and often we are unable to figure out what he is doing. But what a comfort it is to surrender and trust knowing that he is in control.

Prayer: Oh God, thank you for reminding us over and over not to be afraid. Thank you that in you we may have peace. And we praise you for your plan of salvation and for the encouragement we have knowing that you have overcome the world.

AMEN
