

Saturday 2/21/17 notes

'Fear and Fortitude'

The Big Thing Father gifted me with was the heart change concerning my fears vs believing His assurance and promise. This was not a new concept to me, as I have pounded away at Scripture for years on the subject. Looking back through my notes, I see instance after instance of these Texts about trust, provision, not to fear, care for me, etc.

However, as we discussed, it was finally to my heart that He added the catalyst only He can add, that caused the seeds of His Word to have Their effect. It occurred on the afternoon of the 17<sup>th</sup> as I was listening to Weber's 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter, concerning his take on the grueling Army Ranger training. He said "The point of our (Ranger) training was to overcome our basest fears."

Suddenly, everything came into perspective for me, and I suspect I was healed. I say suspect, because I will ask myself in a year if I'm still tethered down in peace. My prayers are that this is not a momentary thing, but that a foundational reality has changed in me.

I realized that the contrary views of my whole life and my actions have been largely based upon (avoiding) the fears of discomfort – loss of provision, bruised pride, disrespect, harm. In response, I have looked to excel at the barriers to the things that cause those discomforts. The problem is, aside from being sinful, these preventative barriers are horrible taskmasters. Worse yet, because they are employed to circumvent Godly trust, they are sin and sure to fail. While He has done much in me to not retaliate against much of the sources of those discomforts, I still centered my intentions around keeping the causes at bay through my own efforts. The biggest one – loss of provision – is the mountain of the bunch. Because of His goal to heal me, it isn't a surprise to me to see the state of provisional threat He's allowed me to be in for the past several years.

The challenge, of course, is His promise to provide, both while we act and while it's not our job to act. The problem of painful difficulties and the certainty of them could only be answered two ways – excel in my efforts to stave them off, or do what is truly only my part and trust His ability, intent, and His sureness to keep His promises. In short, as I failed to choose the second answer, life has of course been difficult.

Weber's statement suddenly shed light on all of my folly, but more so, at the same time God gave me comfort and faith in the Scriptures about Him that I've strived to embody. Despite difficulties (as I perceive them, but are nothing to the God Who governs and provides), I finally understood this big step in reconciling the discomfort of the difficulties I face with the Father Who governs them. Weber's words, made relevant to me through Father's Grace, showed me that the fears that torment are to be removed by their training, and removes my fear (sin) of God's actions towards me, and thus removes my tormenting fear. And THAT is when I realized my sin, the sin Father revealed to me, I repented of, He healed me of. My base fear has been not resting in Him, as I tread the discomforts I fear, which are allayed by His care. Once I understood that, I fled to Him in the hope of leaving my fear of His not doing what He says He will, which then resolved my fear of the discomforting things. By His Grace, it was like He simultaneously produced the chicken and the egg, taking me out of the spin cycle by answering both questions.

The joke of this to me (on my humanity) is that all of this reads soundly. We all know it. I've spoken on it for a very long time. But thus the point I made Saturday, that though we have the truth, without the catalyst of God, nothing penetrates our heart. Thus, Eph 2.8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God,* <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast."

I've done my best to explain this, and it might seem like a circular argument. BUT, that's the point of anything we attempt in grasping God. Miraculously, He alone makes the connection in an otherwise circular argument. That seems to be the case in all things relating to crossing the threshold to Him. We can read it, understand it, believe it – but until He and He alone activates it, we can do nothing. Not in Salvation, not in Sanctification, not in our endeavors, RE: John 15.5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

I used (to have) to say in my futile fortitude, "I refuse to be afraid, I will trust Him." Now I can say, "I don't need to be afraid, He's led me to trust Him." Dale, I am truly amazed, but not at all surprised.

Praise God, praise God.

The thing is, we are to have fortitude. My fortitude is futile if it's not striving towards God, or if I don't understand God must add His catalyst. If I don't strive while remembering those two things, it IS futile. But, if I do then we can be glad when Jesus says "To him who **overcomes** I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives *it*."

Fortitude is necessary and required. Not understanding why, it can be conducted in futility.