



NightLight

A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

"take heed....as to a light that shines in a dark place." II Peter 1:19

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Dear Friends,



When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it."

Genesis 28:16

One of my favorite Oswald Chambers quotes is, "Moods are not for praying; moods are for kicking." (Of course I only like that quote when I'm in a good mood. Otherwise it insults me.) Chambers is a master at shaking us awake and reminding us we live every moment in the reality of what Jesus did for us at the Cross. Redemption is the atmosphere we live in. **In Him we live and move and have our being. (Acts 17:28)** That should be the basis for our moods. We are to draw our sense of reality from the invisible Real, not from our personal feelings. We should never wake up to see what kind of mood we are in and then base our disposition on those feelings. We rule them, not the other way around.

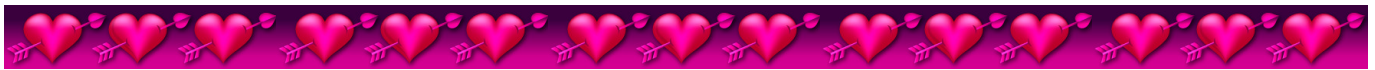


I preach this REAL good. And most of the time I practice it. Yet I forget. And when I do, the outer chaos comes pouring in. Fears and frustrations get the upper hand, and I become a slave to the moods they create. Even though I am a child of the Covenant, I fall under their rule. That is, until I remember I can choose to stand in who I am in Christ. I am His beloved. I choose to live in His love, and look up and out of my emotional chaos. Then I take charge over my emotions. I cannot control how they come, but I can control how they leave! I suffer such a needless loss of peace when I forget. **Oh what peace we often forfeit; Oh what needless pain we bear; All because we do not carry, Everything to God in prayer. (From the hymn What A Friend We Have in Jesus)**

I have gotten a bit tired of forgetting. So I have made a successful attempt to remember. Every time. Always. Think of the tremendousness of this promise to you: **I will keep in perfect peace him**

whose mind is stayed on Me, because he trusts in Me. (Isaiah 26:3) Young's literal says, "*Imagination fortified with peace, for in Thee, it is confident.*" Your imagination is where your joy or your sorrow erupts. Where do you choose to focus it? If you check with your moods first, you will fall into the pit of skewed perspective, and can no longer see God. If you do not perceive God, maybe its time to stop forgetting and start remembering. He is there, but you have not known it.

One more gold mine. God promised that in the New Covenant He would do something amazing. First, the Old Covenant has to complete its preparatory task of awakening man to his need for the New Covenant. Is that need awake in you? It screams wide awake in me. I know that in my own strength I cannot fulfill the law of Love. God promises in **Jeremiah 31:33-34** **I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.** In **Ezekiel 36:26-27**, He says, **I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my ways.** The Old Covenant did not fail! It is holy and right and just. Jesus did not come to free me from the Law, but to fulfill it (fill it full). He did this by writing it inside me, and coming into me to energize me with His Presence. Now I can live the Law of Love which fulfills all of the law entirely. The New Covenant (renewed covenant) celebrates His coming INTO us, to fulfill the promise of Jeremiah and Ezekiel and all the Scriptures. It is union; eternal unbreakable union. God IN us. Remembering this truth will improve your mood.





MOVIE NEWS

Angel in the House

Mary found this treasure. What a total surprise! It is not very often when a film honors the Lord and the sanctity of family and life. But this British film does all of that. You may have to track it down. It also goes by the name of "*Christmas Angel in the House*". I immediately purchased it for our future viewing.

BOOK NEWS

Miracles

by Tim Stafford



This is an honest straightforward examination of the subject by a non charismatic Christian. He will aggravate the Charismatics and maybe even anger the non Charismatics, and that's why I liked this book. He is neither foolishly gullible nor pseudo intellectually arrogant. He just tells what his investigation revealed.

Eric Metaxas just released a book by the same title which I have not read yet. But anything by Metaxas is worth reading. Keep in mind these are two different books. And after you read them, if you have never read C.S. Lewis's Miracles, read it, too.

Some Closing Thoughts...

Many folks I talk to tell me of an increased intensity in their lives from the Holy Spirit: a 'tightening of the screws' on areas of life where they know they have been fleshly, indifferent, or even sinful. I know it is true for me personally. *Lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily besets us.* How do we do that? By *looking unto Jesus....who for the joy that was set before Him endured. Focus on Him so that you do not become weary and faint in your minds.* (Hebrews 12:1-3) You can't improve your flesh. Celebrate your weakness by giving yourself more and more into His constant loving care for you. And you will find that, like a branch rooted in the Vine, you are producing the same fruit as the Vine produces: life, love, joy, peace, and truth. Then, whatever may come, good or evil, you will be *like a tree planted by streams of water, bringing forth fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither.* (Psalm 1:3)

In His Joy, Clay & Mary



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