

Sailing with Jesus in the Boat



“Abide in me, and I will abide in you. Just as the branch cannot produce fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.” John 15:4

Footprints

One night I dreamed a dream.

I was walking along the beach with my Lord. Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to me and one to my Lord.

When the last scene of my life shot before me I looked back at the footprints in the sand. There was only one set of footprints. I realized that this was at the lowest and saddest times of my life. This always bothered me and I questioned the Lord about my dilemma.

"Lord, You told me when I decided to follow You, You would walk and talk with me all the way. But I'm aware that during the most troublesome times of my life there is only one set of footprints. I just don't understand why, when I need You most, You leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you, never, ever, during your trials and testings. When you saw only one set of footprints, It was then that I carried you."

"Life is a journey, not a destination." (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

“My life has not gone as I planned it, but what would be the point? Life is about living. You cannot know everything that is going to happen before it happens. How boring that would be! Yes, we would like peace of mind. But the truth is that where you end up is not nearly as important as how you get there, because the getting there is life.”

“As living beings, we all have the same destination, don't we? So that is unlikely to be what motivates us, what drives us, what engages us. What makes life worth living, what makes each of us unique, what brings us joy and the suffering that allows us to learn something - that's the journey!”

“Instead of ignoring our present situation and waiting for a future, we should focus on the experience of the present. There is never a moment during life when you will (literally) be any more alive than you are now. Focusing on a goal or future state of being and treating that hypothetical situation as more real than a current situation essentially demeans the present moment.”

Is the Destination Important?

“I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained” (Philippians 3:14-16).

- ❖ Are we on a journey or are we wandering through life?
- ❖ The promise of a destination is what keeps us moving forward.

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Jesus Christ, is the compass by whom I direct my life, and the anchor in whom my soul finds peace and security.



The Holy Spirit is the wind in my sails

To effectively catch the wind in the sails, the sails need to be adjusted and the boat needs to be steered with the destination in mind.

I call this posturing to receive the Holy Spirit. If I draw my sails in too tight (worry, anxiety, control...), the sails are unable to draw in the wind. If they are set too loose (apathy, hopelessness, loss of focus), the sails flap uselessly in the wind and you get tossed around by the waves.

Joyful Expectancy: Romans 8

“This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It’s adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike “What’s next, Papa?” God’s Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children. And we know we are going to get what’s coming to us—an unbelievable inheritance! We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we’re certainly going to go through the good times with him!” Romans 8:15-17

“We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don’t see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy.” Romans 8: 24-25

Praising God

- Praising God gives us Kingdom perspective: setting my eyes on the compass reminds me of who He is and that He is good
- Praising God ushers us into His courts: *“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Thank him and bless his name, for the Lord is good and his gracious love stands forever. His faithfulness remains from generation to generation.” Psalm 100:4-5*
- Praising God draws us close to Him
- Praising God helps us to focus on reality—what’s truly permanent in our chaotic and transitory lives: *“Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshipping him with holy fear and awe.” Hebrews 12:28*

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

by Thomas Ken, 1674 “Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun” (last stanza)