

A GOOD REASON TO TURN BACK

-Sister Sharon L. Liner-

When Jesus was a little boy, he went up to Jerusalem with his parents after the custom of the feast. As they returned, Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem but Mary and Joseph knew it not. The Bible states that they, supposing him to be in their company, went a day's journey without him. They sought for him among their kinfolk and acquaintances but found him not. So when they found him not, they **turned back** to Jerusalem seeking Him.

Saints of God, sometimes it's good to turn back. Yes, it is good for us to turn back and seek Him! The majority of the times we look at turning back as a negative thing, but it all depends on what we're turning back for and what we do after we turn back.

On another occasion, there were ten men that were lepers. They stood afar off asking the Master to have mercy on them. God, being the merciful God that He is, did just that. He told them to go show themselves to the priests. The Bible declares that as they went, they were cleansed. It is sad to say that only one out of the ten **turned back** to give God the glory that He so rightfully deserved. My brothers and sisters, let us turn back and seek Him. Let us turn back and glorify Him. We all have "**A Good Reason To Turn Back.**"

TWO FLATS AND FOUR BLESSINGS

-Minister Joy Jackson-

It's almost certain that if you own or drive a car you will one day experience a flat tire - but to have two flats in one day...

Having changed the first flat tire that morning, I planned to buy another tire after I took my daughter to school. Under pressure to get her there on time, I drove my car as if I was on the Atlanta Motor Speedway. I had gone from zero to sixty in no time. Suddenly, I heard an unwelcome, bumpy bump sound - you know, that sound when your tire is flat.

Now I was stuck on the road, wondering what I was going to do. How was I going to get my daughter to school? How was I going to get my wife from a class she was taking? How was I going to get out of this trouble?

Within a few minutes, my first blessing arrived in the form of my neighbor, who drove up in his car and offered to take my Joya to school - which is the same school his daughter attends. The second blessing came when a woman pulled up in a minivan and asked if I was ok. I thanked her for her kindness in stopping, especially given the times in which we live.

Not only did she stop to check on me, but she also took me to the tire shop, waited for an hour with me, then took me back to my car. During that time, I was able to share my faith with her and learn a little bit about her family. That was my third blessing. The fourth blessing is that I was able to sow a monetary gift into her life for her kindness to me.

Before she left, I had to ask the woman why she had stopped to help me. She said that as she drove by me, she heard something in her spirit telling her to stop and help that man (Glory!). She then asked me if I had been worrying before she stopped. I told her no, I was just waiting on the Lord, for in Him I live and move and have my being.

READY?

-Sister Zylpha Pryor-Bell-

“Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.” [Luke 12:35,36]

If you have ever experienced a time of separation from someone whom you loved deeply, you can understand the yearning in the hearts of these men as they await the coming of their lord. You may have been a child waiting for the return of a parent, or a parent awaiting the return of a child. Perhaps your spouse had to leave you for a period of time. It may have been for days, weeks, or even months. This passage of Scripture brings to mind the children, wives, and parents whose loved ones are currently stationed in Iraq. They are going about the daily occupations of life – school, work, even play. But every fiber of their being is waiting, always waiting. Their hearts are ever in a state of readiness for the return of that one so dear. If he came home suddenly and knocked at the door, they might peek cautiously first to see who it was. But when they recognized him, they would fling the door open wide and joyfully embrace him.

Can we say that this would be our response if Jesus were to return this very second? Would His sudden appearance be the answer to our heart’s cry? Would it be the fulfillment of our deepest yearning? Would we be ready to welcome Him without the slightest hesitation?

Jesus walked the earth filled with the glorious Spirit of God. Then, through His shed blood, He made it possible for us to obtain this same Spirit - this same Divine Life that lives in Him. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we become partakers of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus. Once we have tasted of this Life, it is up to us to yield ourselves to the will of that Life, to the will of the Holy Spirit. But we must learn to yield.

How do we learn to yield? We learn to yield by saturating ourselves in the Word of God and bending our knees in prayer to Him. The more we soak in His Word and pray, the more yielded we become. The more yielded we become, the greater the flow of that Divine Life of God in us.

The Holy Spirit is truly a treasure inside of our bodies that works to impart Jesus, and everything about Him, to us. The fruit of the Spirit is the evidence that the Holy Spirit is working to form the mind and heart of Christ in us. As we take in the Word of God, the Spirit brings the Word to life, imparting knowledge through revelation. But the Spirit only works to the extent that He is stirred - and He is stirred by communion with our Heavenly Father.

The Holy Spirit leads us into most intimate connection with God, heart to heart, through the Lord Jesus Christ. The more time we spend in prayer with our Heavenly Father in the name of His Son, Jesus, the more the Life in us is kindled. It is aroused in expectation, in waiting, in watching for the Son.

As the Spirit in us is stirred up, we taste and see that the Lord is good, He is good indeed! Through prayer, as the Spirit draws us into the depths of God, our yearning for Jesus grows greater. The earnest expectation of the creature - yes, even the very longing of our flesh - becomes a longing for the manifestation of Christ. Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

How ready are you for Jesus’ return? Are your loins girded about with the Truth of His Word? Do you let your mind steep in the Word until you have extracted from it the essence of Jesus? Do you stir up the Gift of the Holy Ghost by praying often and long? Is your light burning so that you can feel the heat of the Spirit like fire shut up in your bones? Does the Holy Spirit so fill your heart that it beats with joyful expectancy of Jesus’ return?

If your answer to these questions is not a resounding “Yes!” then it is time to search the Scriptures more, time to pray more, much more - - so that when He cometh and knocketh, you may open unto Him immediately! Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus!

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Mission Statement: To support the ministry by laboring before God in prayer on behalf of the leadership, the members, and souls of the lost.

All church members are invited to submit testimonies or inspirational thoughts for publication. Please submit only material that you have written yourself as we do not wish to violate any copyright laws. All submissions will be subject to editing. The publication will be issued during the months of March, June, September, and December.