



March 26, 2010

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Dear Friends:

**DROP, COVER and ROLL**

The fireman came to our school to teach us about fire safety. Before he gave us our "Smokey the Bear" badges, he gave some warnings and showed some scary pictures. He also showed us what he called the "Drop, Cover (your face) and Roll" technique to help survive a fire. That drill certainly seemed more plausible than the "under the wooden school desk" maneuver we had been taught that would save us if Castro or Khrushchev decided to drop the bomb on us.

Now, so many years later, I think the "Drop, Cover and Roll" idea just might be good advice for a lot of things in life. In fact, I've used the idea a few times to encourage folks who have been burned on their journey. Actually, they just needed a place of safety and solace from the flames that were licking at their heels.

Recent counsel went to a couple that had been scorned and ostracized because they refused to join a few hot-tongued imps who were "prayerfully" working some folks over. My encouragement to them was that our breath is just too precious to even give voice to any such confederacy of fools and we must not forget that God is bigger than such silliness. The Father is grieved when we choose to align ourselves with the agendas and shrill cacophonies that are so unlike His character. For safety's sake, we just have to get out of the way of the bitter stampede. D, C and R!

I've always been a little perplexed by those who eagerly flock to Spain to get involved in the "Running with the Bulls" spectacle. Supposedly smart people must dive into doorways and jump fences in order to avoid being gored. D, C and R!

My question is, why subject yourself to such danger to begin with?

I equally question allegedly smart, spiritual people who regularly plant themselves squarely in the path of a stampede of snorting beasts looking to stomp all in their path.

I have the answer but Dale Carnegie would flunk me.

But try as we might to avoid it, sometimes we just find ourselves in such a predicament.

We've all been "fortunate" to find ourselves in situations with the fraternal amalgamation of silly folk who clearly don't seem to rejoice about the good things God is doing in our lives. Characterized by driven fervor, like piranhas, they swarm every funeral, picnic, wedding, shower, marshmallow roast, baptism, or Bar Mitzvah that comes down the pike; they cluster, clamor, click tongues and roll eyes. No affirming here, just an escalation of scorn behind pathetic, syrupy grins. Many do it because they are rewarded and receive tacit approval from some surprising cheerleaders, others are just clueless. Whatever the case, you just have to "Drop, Cover and Roll".

God is good, He presides over a big, bright world and He lets us live here. There is so much to be

done, experienced and celebrated! Don't miss the bundle of new blessings that will follow as you purpose that you won't let mischief or harassment steal God's best from you. When the heat is on, D, C and R!

Like David, we have to learn how to find that "secret place".

DROP into His loving arms. COVER yourself in prayer and Holy Spirit armor. ROLL all of your cares on Him. That will keep the flames at bay.

To the tired, abused and discouraged, lift your sights! The LifeGate is open and you won't have to do the fireman's drill to thrive around here.

By experience I've learned, sometimes we just have to remove ourselves from the stampede and into that safety zone knowing, whether in Spain, a new job, a growing church and even in our day to day challenges, we just might have to dodge some bull along the way.

Drop, Cover and Roll!

*Michael*

*The* LifeGate

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