



March 5, 2010

Dear Friends:

SAFE AND SECURE

Been talking about joy for the last few weeks and, as is normally the case in this walk, the place where we make our biggest stand will invariably be the place where we will be challenged the most. The attack on our joy comes from many different sources but we must remain resolute in our refusal to give up or give in.

Jesus, in John 16, tells us about a joy that no man can take away, but sometimes we allow it. Therefore, we have to remain on alert to all of the joy zappers hovering to bring havoc. Naturally, the struggles of life, health, finances and relationships are obvious things that will challenge us. But realize, the joy drain is keenly tied into what comes in through our eye and ear gates.

In a recent discussion with a friend, we remarked that we periodically needed to just shut the news off for a bit. And after discussing some of the perilous events of recent days, my friend and I mutually agreed, "Man, the news is overwhelmingly bad and if you didn't know God, this would be a scary time to live".

Consider just a few things of recent reveal . . .

According to ABC News, behind closed doors, and not on the promised C Span, our President just signed a new law to increase our National Debt by 1.9 trillion dollars. That's Trillion. The bill, for your mama an 'em, has just grown to well over \$120,000.00 per taxpayer . . .

It was also just disclosed that nine newly appointed Department of Justice attorneys have either represented or contributed information to assist in the defense of GITMO terrorists. And I thought they were supposed to be looking out for us . . .

Just this week, the Wall Street Journal reported that in response to the Administration's Agenda Wish List regarding energy and the more complete control of the citizenry, Harvard researchers have concluded, to match the goofy goals, seven dollar gas is on the way. Meanwhile, we're perched atop enough potential energy to thumb our noses at our taskmasters across the world who curse us while making regular contributions to the Fraternal Order of Terrorists. Too bad we can't figure a way to harness the DC flatulent fiasco, there'd be enough power there to propel us for years . . .

While in the neighborhood, Ahmadinejad, the moron in the leisure suit, now crows that he has the nukes. The Middle East caldron is just about to explode again and don't be surprised if our Israeli buddies soon assist in speeding up his journey to Allah's lap . . .

Back on these shores, we all witnessed the tragic SeaWorld accident. After the event, a spokesman expressed, although they were sad, the whale was special and would remain, "an active member of the team". What? If this had been done by a dog, an elephant or any zoo animal, the animal in question would have been immediately removed or sent to the big zoo in the sky. While understanding but not finding total agreement with all of the competing opinions, I do have one big question. How was it, after the third incident of death hovering around this animal, that the SeaWorld management

did not throw a weeklong fish fry for Orlando's hungry population? Two problems could have been dealt with at once.

Discouraged yet?

My friend and I were right . . . in 2010, if you don't know God; this is a scary time to live.

But hang on, not all the news is bad. The only comic relief of recent news days revolves around the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration having to cancel their National Press Club briefing. They were scheduled to deliver a statement intended to inform the masses of their valiant service in equipping us for the fast approaching, global warming and climate change catastrophe. The meeting was cancelled and the government was shut down for four days as the result of a 21 inch snow storm. Gotta know, God loves to laugh, too.

Knowing and living the Joy of the Lord is not merely the recognition or visual acquiescence, "Hey that's God." No, it is the solid, down deep, faith acknowledgment that the Joy of the Lord is truly our strength.

This joy is not some giddy, frivolous exercise but rather, it is the solid certainty, "Regardless of the circumstances that might surround me, I've got this thing won!"

About two years into their journey from Egypt, Moses sent 12 spies to check out the Land of Promise. The scary giants and the verboten cities blocked their vision of the great blessings that waited just over the hedges and 10 of those spies came back inciting doubt, fear and discouragement in the ranks. God got ticked off and increased their tour by 38 years but, even in His disappointment, He remembered Joshua and Caleb, two special men who will be forever described as men who, "Wholeheartedly followed God". They said, "We are well able! We've got this thing won!" They got to taste the milk and honey because they held on to the Joy of the Lord.

Yes, the joy theft agenda is in full gear. But hear this People of God . . . your well being is not tied to circumstances, conditions or crazies on this planet.

That news ought to make you smile a bit.

Michael

The
LifeGate
