

Warm greetings in the name of our BLESSED & soon coming KING, JESUS CHRIST, our RISEN LORD & SAVIOR. I trust that in spite of any adversities or afflictions (Ps. 34:19) you might be experiencing, that you can still shout, "IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL."

This must be our cry as difficult days are coming for the TRUE CHURCH. We WILL be SEVERELY tested & tried to our WALK, LOYALTY & SERVICE to CHRIST (II Tim. 3:12). Many do not want to think or talk about it, but we need to use WISDOM (James 1:5) & NOT ignore it. As you know, I teach & PREACH a great deal on SPIRITUAL WARFARE & we ARE in spiritual war that will soon impact the physical world. PLEASE don't take prayer lightly & not dress for the DAILY battles (Eph. 6:13-17).

Before I share about July's services & harvest, I'm still touched about the young lady who gave her life to Christ at the service I preached in French Camp Prison---she is dying of AIDS. After she received Christ, a countenance of peace enveloped her face & she said, "I'm not afraid to die now. Thank you for bringing HIM to me---in my heart." I prayed for her (Mark 16:18) that she would be healed & delivered from AIDS. The name of JESUS is above aids (Phil. 2:9 & Eph. 1:20-23) & in my 19 years of ministry, 2 people with FULL BLOWN AIDS were completely healed. Sixteen others were healed SPIRITUALLY & went home to the LORD (II Cor. 5-8). She is in prison, but JESUS set her free (Isa. 61:1). JESUS is the LIGHT of your salvation & your one HOPE & true source of ETERNAL PEACE. I pray that God will make you sensitive to at least one person trapped in darkness who NEEDS to hear of HIS SAVING GRACE. A simple word of HOPE, TRUTH or ENCOURAGEMENT may be all it takes to open heavens door to a lost and dying soul. At that service, where the dying gal came to Christ, I had a message prepared but as the ladies filed in, their JOY had been stolen by satan. There was very little peace or hope evidenced. The Holy SPIRIT had me give a different message, one of Gods LOVE, PEACE, JOY & HOPE.

There were 21 services in July and over 275 gave their lives or rededicated to CHRIST. There were services at the LA Mission, Union Rescue Mission, Fred Jordan Mission and the Long Beach Rescue Mission, along with the LA County Jail, Jacob's Well & Chino Women's Prison. I was also a guest speaker at the Marina del Rey Singles. It seems July's services were filled with despair & hopelessness, as were the dozens of calls this month for prayer. I encouraged each one who called & those who came up for prayer after the services to GO TO GOD & POUR OUT YOUR SOUL IN HIS HOLY PRESENCE. Then I asked a question which some thought was strange. "Are you anticipating the BLESSINGS of GOD today?" There's not enough attention set to the RICH

Biblical concept of GOD's BLESSINGS. Scripture plainly reveals GOD as the source of ALL blessings & the New Testament CLEARLY teaches the blessings of GOD are consummated in our PERSONAL relationship with Jesus Christ. See Eph.1:3. I preach an hour sermon on that scripture. Through the indwelling presence of CHRIST, we possess the lavish blessings of GOD; love, peace, wisdom, strength, courage & EVERY noble virtue.

However, either due to the painful barbs of adversity, the numbing influence of success or distorted notions of our worthiness, discouragement (satan's most worn out tool) & hopelessness sets in. We are to view ourselves as those "called for the very purpose that we might INHERIT a BLESSING" (I Peter 3:9). O.K. Mel, how can we relish the blessings of GOD, whether the prevailing circumstantial winds are favorable or ill? Be GOD-centered, NOT self-centered. PRIORITIZE PRAISE, WORSHIP & the reading of SCRIPTURE so your thoughts revolve around the character of GOD. HONOR CHRIST in ALL your activities (Matt. 6:33). Dethrone the idols of personal pleasure & ease, CHOOSING to endure SUFFERING for the sake of GLORIFYING CHRIST.

DAILY confess all you have as a gift from GOD (I Cor. 4:7). You may have worked hard for what you have, but GOD gives you LIFE, BREATH & HEALTH. ALL good things come from ABOVE (James 1:17). The MERCY & GRACE of GOD ALWAYS treat us better & MORE wonderfully than we deserve. Practice Contentment. I say practice because contentment is NOT a natural state of mind. So many want more than what we have. Jesus said in Heb. 13:5, "be content with what you have, I'll NEVER leave you nor forsake you." Contentment is being most SATISFIED in your fellowship with CHRIST, finding in HIM your most exquisite TREASURES.

SEE GOD in everything. As Christians, we are CALLED to give THANKS in everything (I Thess. 5:18) precisely because CHRIST is sovereignly & personally involved in EVERYTHING. The nature of GOD is to BLESS us, to work for our highest good in every relationship, task & challenge. GOD might allow great difficulty in your life, but it cannot negate HIS BLESSINGS (Romans 8:28).

EXPECT GOD'S blessings (Ps. 62:5). Let HIM teach you how blessed you are in CHRIST. Share your blessings with others. Consciously live under the umbrella of HIS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE. May the light of GOD'S LOVE fill your life with fresh HOPE & PURPOSE. Until next month, may GOD BLESS you abundantly & to you who BLESSED me with LOVE offerings, a 100-fold return.

In His Majesty's Service,

Mel Novak