

WIND OF THE SPIRIT MINISTRIES Newsletter

OCTOBER 2014

#### **UPAND DOWN?** OR FLATLINE?

There is something very desirable about having a life that is devoid of a lot of ups and downs. There is such a temptation to believe that if life were a smooth path the journey would be much more enjoyable and, probably, even more productive.

Add to that a person's faith in Christ, and one might want to come to the conclusion that the abundant life about which Jesus talked would mostly include a trouble free, sick-free and pain-free existence. After all, isn't that what "abundant life" means?

But, it just doesn't turn out that way!

One day you feel alive, energetic, ready to pour yourself into whatever needs to be accomplished and happy about doing it. You feel like the "white tornado" that zooms through the day and mini-miracles happen with the slightest of effort.

The next day it feels like you walked away from the wall and your energy plug was pulled out of the power socket. There is little zip in your step and it seems like a half-hour journey to make it to the recliner. As has been said, you feel like your "got up and go got up and went."

Looking at it another way, one day you're on top of the mountain. The day is bright, the trail was steep, but surmountable, the view is awesome and worth the effort required to get to the top. You just want to stay there and perhaps, like the disciples, have the desire and energy to "build three booths" and stay awhile.

On yet another day, even the slightest uphill climb is a major effort, because during the night someone put lead in the bottom of your boots.

Ever have one of those days, or weeks or, God forbid, months? Welcome to the up and down life!

While laying on a gurney in the hospital and watching the heart monitor with its continuing ups and downs that recorded the heartbeats, I found myself thinking, if not inquiring of the Lord "why the ups and downs of life? Things go well for awhile for people and then all of a sudden you find yourself incapacitated in some way or another. One day you're enjoying celebrating a wedding with your family and the next day you're flat on your back in the hospital with a heart attack."

As I was thinking along these lines—under medication, of course, the Spirit of God spoke to my spirit and said, "Look at the monitor. Would you rather the lines that you see go up and down or remain flat?"

The Lord gave me a visual. "I rather prefer that the line go up and down, rather than flat line." Hmmmm

The tough times are okay. It may not seem that way at the time, but, as the Word of God states, "We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance, character, character hope and hope does not disappoint us because, God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us." Romans 5:2-5

Flat line living is not healthy living. Flat line discipleship is even worse. We grow as we meet the various challenges around us-whether in our physical existence or in our faith relationship with Jesus. It is in those tough times that our faith becomes stronger and our resolve to live the kind of life that reflects the character and nature of Christ becomes more sure.

It is in the tough and challenging times that God develops Christian character within us. It is also in those times we come to realize the One in whom we place our hope. Yes, there are persons that God places in our lives to help us along the way—such a medical professionals and caregivers. However, our ultimate hope is in him and God places his Spirit within us to solidify that hope in the face of whatever circumstance with which we are confronted.

Praise God for the ups and downs of life. Flat line living is not good for the heart—or the body or soul or spirit.

Wind of the Spirit Ministries

Revs. Larry and Audrey Eddings

## LISTEN UP! By Audrey Eddings

So you say you've never heard God! Well, let me reassure you that you have, but just didn't recognize him. Scriptures tells us: "He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize his voice.....I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me." John 10:3-5

Whose voice prompted you to ask him into your heart? Who wooed you, called you, drew you to himself? Who brought about that hunger to come to him? "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him." John :44 God has created an empty place in your heart that only he can fill and he calls out for you to come.

Whose Presence comes upon you in worship? "I love you Lord, and I lift my voice to worship you, O my soul rejoice." As you lift your voice and eyes heavenward, can you not sense his love enfold you? Can you not "hear" his love?

Whose finger underlines the words in <u>Scriptures</u> so that they jump off the page and speak to you. Or who brings those words to your mind when you need to hear them? God is speaking a personal word to you! "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105

Whose voice whispers into your mind the <u>name of someone</u> who needs prayer? "Pray for John or Jane. Call them, write them a letter or text. They need to hear from you." Have you ever felt the nudge to encourage someone or to call and just see how their day is going? "How beautiful upon the mountain are the feet of those who bring glad tidings." Romans 10:15

Who brings that sickening feeling of regret when you have done something that was not pleasing to God? Who brought the conviction to seek forgiveness for what you have done? "No temptation has seized you except what is common to many. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will provide a way out, so that you can stand up under it." I Corinthians 10:13 Or, how has he affirmed you for some good you have done and then you hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

Whose voice draws you to <u>walk with him</u>, to listen to him and just be with him? Does he not call you to that special place that is known only to you? God is always there, waiting to meet with you. Even when you are too busy or forget to come, it is his voice you hear in the loneliness of your soul calling, "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28 Have you:

- Accepted Jesus in your heart?
- Been in worship?
- Read the Scriptures?
- Prayed for someone?
- Been convicted of sin?
- Gone to that private place with Jesus?

Then you have heard God's voice, as he is the one who first spoke you into being and will continue to speak to you throughout your whole life.

Listen up! Know that God is speaking to you!

# THE POWER OF "ANYTIME" PRAYER By Taylor Gallman

Several weeks ago, as I approached the chancel to preach, I fell. I did not think very much about it and even made a joke of it to the congregation. Then, about a month later I missed the last step on a ladder and fell again, reinjuring the hand. I later noticed a strange swelling in my hand as it began to hurt.

A surgical nurse in my congregation suggested I see my doctor because she believed my hand was broken. It was! I now get to wear a soft cast on my arm so that it will heal and I can avoid surgery.

I tell this because I want to make a point about how we think we can handle the small things in life on our own. I did not call my friends to pray for my hand because I figured that I could just put up with the aggravation of it until it healed.

A few days ago I had a technician come to our home to install a phone. He was limping as he came to do the work. I asked him what was wrong with his knee. He, too, had stepped off a ladder the wrong way and injured his knee. He didn't want to go to the doctor and was just hoping that it would get better. He was frustrated with the injury and really didn't know what to do.

As I walked to another part of the house, I felt that God told me to go pray for him. I went back and asked him if I could pray for him. I explained that I had seen God work miracles through prayer. *continued*, page 3

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He then shared with me how his momma had been in the hospital with a tumor on her brain and how a man had come in and prayed for her and she walked out of the hospital in three days after brain surgery. The doctors were amazed.

"I believe God can heal others," he said. "I'm not sure about me."

When I asked him if I could pray for him, he said, "Okay, I suppose it sure can't hurt."

After I prayed for his healing, he stood up and began to put weight on it and then a strange look came across his face. I asked what was wrong and he said, "Well, I am waiting for my knee to hurt, but it doesn't."

He walked around, finished the work he came to do and the pain never came back. He was so thankful for God's healing and said, "Well, I knew God could do it for my momma, but never figured he could do it for me."

Friends, even as I write this I still have a soft cast on my arm knowing that God can heal me. However, I have not asked. So often we think this is just a small thing or I can handle it on my own or perhaps we just forget to ask. My life verse is: "Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." I Thessalonians 5:16-18.

So, first I have to ask God to forgive me for trying to do what he does best, thinking I can handle it on my own. Next, I am asking my friends to forgive me for depriving them of the opportunity to pray for a friend in need. Third, I am asking them to pray and ask God for my healing and for complete range of motion to come back to my hand and arm.

God cares about every situation in our lives even though sometimes we forget and think it's not a big deal. God wants to be involved in all of our lives, not just the parts into which we invite him.

Years ago I was standing at my house when a storm blew up and I watched this giant oak tree blew over and hit two houses. I ran over to help my neighbors get the tree off their house.

Several people came to help and we were able to get them to safety. After we had finished cleaning up I went to look at this mighty tree that had withstood many tremendous storms during its life. I noticed that the heart of the tree was gone. Then I noticed that no one had paid attention to the fact that there were carpenter ants all around the tree. Over the course of time these tiny ants had destroyed this huge tree. To look at the tree from the outside you would think it is beautiful. Yet, on the inside, it was dying. Why? Because the life was being eaten away by small ants to which no one paid attention.

Let's not allow the same thing to happen to our lives. We often time think we can handle the small things. However, we need to pay attention to them so that they do not suck the life from us from the inside out.

God's blessings be with you.

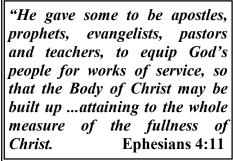
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# MINISTRY CALENDAR

### PLEASE POST AND PRAY FOR THESE EVENTS

OTHER MINISTRY EVENTS ARE IN THE PLANNING STAGES Eddings Email address: woseddings@msn.com

#### **OCTOBER/NOVEMBER**

Larry continues to recover from the heart attack he experienced in August.

During these two months Larry and Audrey will also work to:

- 1. Complete Children's Sunday School curriculum materials on "God's Supernatural Power for Kids."
- 2. Complete "Equipping the Saints" booklet on "The Power of Prayer."
- 3. Prepare for recording all of the teaching sessions of "The Healing Academy" and "Journey Within" for DVD presentation.

THANK YOU FOR KEEPING US IN PRAYER