

FOURTH QUARTER STRATEGIES - Saturday, June 6, 2015

While traveling 25,000 feet above the Arizona desert recently, I was struck by the Cumulus clouds below and the shadows they cast on the desert floor. Even in the early hours of the day, I imagine the temperature was beginning to soar. For those below, I suspect the patchy clouds were welcome relief from the rays of sun, but let's talk about the shadows and the darker moments of our lives.

We all face seasons of darkness and uncertainty. And our view is certainly limited from our perspective here on earth. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have God's view from up above! He not only sees the big picture, but He also orchestrates every aspect of our individual circumstances. He knows our actions beforehand and He's there to assist us, if we simply ask for His guidance. His mighty right arm is there to deliver us from whatever perceived evil might confront us.

Whether the challenge comes in our personal, family or business life, I've found that I can surely count on Him to get us through the darkest situations of life. In Psalm 23, which I memorized as a young boy, we're reminded by King David even though we walk through the *Valley of the Shadow of Death* we need not fear *the evil one* since our God is with us! Do you have the assurance of God's presence in your life?

You can have the confidence only found in a personal relationship with Christ by simply asking Him to come into your heart. Yes, you will need to give up control of those things that have taken over that place in your heart reserved for God alone. My daughter Faith made a decision to ask Jesus into her heart when she was 6 1/2 years old. I was there and had the joy of getting on my knees next to her as we leaned against her bunk bed and she sincerely prayed for forgiveness. Kid's don't carry much baggage; hence, I believe it's much easier for them to come to Jesus.

The good news is He can greatly lighten the load we attempt to carry through life. Remember, He views it all from up above and we'd be wise to let Him have the reins of our life. I trust you will give him your burdens and place your trust in Him this day forward!

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Passages to Ponder: Psalm 23; Matthew 11:28-30; John 15:7-11; Psalm 4

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Psalm 23 New King James Version (NKJV) A Psalm of David.

The LORD *is* my shepherd;

I shall not want.

² He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside the still waters.

³ He restores my soul;

He leads me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil;

For You *are* with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil;

My cup runs over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

All the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD

Forever.

Matthew 11:28-30 (NKJV)

²⁸ Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.”

John 15:7-11 (NKJV)

⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

⁹ “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

¹¹ “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full.

Psalm 4 (NKJV) **A Psalm of David.**

4 Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness!
You have relieved me in *my* distress;
Have mercy on me, and hear my prayer.

² How long, O you sons of men,
Will you turn my glory to shame?
How long will you love worthlessness
And seek falsehood? Selah

³ But know that the LORD has set apart for Himself him who is godly;
The LORD will hear when I call to Him.

⁴ Be angry, and do not sin.
Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Selah

⁵ Offer the sacrifices of righteousness,
And put your trust in the LORD.

⁶ *There are* many who say,
“Who will show us *any* good?”
LORD, lift up the light of Your countenance upon us.

⁷ You have put gladness in my heart,
More than in the season that their grain and wine increased.

⁸ I will both lie down in peace, and sleep;
For You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.