

March 20, 2020

Greetings in the Name of Jesus our Lord,

Most of you know my theme verse, "A merry heart doeth good, like a medicine, but a broken spirit drieth the bones." (Proverbs 17:22 KJV)

So today I want to get over my anxieties and fears and begin this devotional with that theme. This comes from Ralph Puckett (thank you). If you have a story or anything that might seem of interest, please send it to me at rspin6477@aol.com.

The deacons were meeting in a country church. One of the agenda items was whether to purchase a chandelier.

All were in agreement except for old Uncle John, who exclaimed, "I'm agin it." Uncle John was "agin" pretty much everything.

When the chairman asked him the grounds of his opposition, Uncle John replied, "Three things. First, no one in our church knows how to play it. No one can spell it. Most importantly, what this church needs is more light."

Well, It has been a hard week, hasn't it? There has been so much noise, so many sounds, so many interpretations of what is going on and how we should act. There have been so many feelings different for all of us. But they are dominated by an underlying fear of what is going on. Let me suggest that when we are faced with our most vulnerable emotions, it can be critical to our spiritual health, not to overwhelm ourselves with all the meanings. Just sit, take a deep breath, listen to your emotions, and trust that in difficult times we will survive.

My favorite preacher of all time was an author and a hymnwriter. He wrote the words to one of my favorite hymns, GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY. If you can, don't just read the words, but sing them:

*God of grace and God of glory, On they people pour thy power,
Crown thine ancient church's story, bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, For the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.*

*Lo! The hosts of evil round us Scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, For the living of these days, for the living of these days.*

HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK

God bless
Roger