

Sometimes God calms the raging storm.

Sometimes He lets the storm rage and calms His child. Either way ... in Him ... all is calm.

Debby Woods

What good can possibly come from this?" the reporter asked Jack Hayford. "I think the starting place for me" responded Jack, "is in Psalm 76:10 where the Bible says, 'Surely the wrath of man shall praise You.' The essence of this verse is that in the midst of the most vicious things accomplished by humankind, there is a place into which God will intervene and ultimately ... His praise shall come out of it. Not because He choreographed the event to evoke our praise but because His redemptive capacity as sovereign God makes it possible for the worst expressions of human wrath to become instruments for unusual visitation of divine mercy and grace."

The Sunday after September 11th a church in New York reported that they indeed had a "visitation" of divine mercy, recording over 700 decisions for Jesus in that one day. Jack's comments reminded me of the amazing truths in Deut. 23:5 that, "He turns our curses into blessings" and as Joseph says in Gen. 50:20 ... "As for you, you meant evil, but God meant good in order to bring about these present results."

As I watched along with you the explosions of that day in September it was difficult for my mind to absorb. I found myself longing for answers and comfort. I, like the Psalmist, said ... "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help." In prayer the power of God's truths brought instant comfort and clarity to my soul. He said with Fatherly authority ... "Debby, your security is intact and nothing of earth's terror can threaten your soul. The same security and safety you had yesterday is in place today." I thanked the Lord and celebrated His amazing grace and endless wonders of His ever-present help. He reminded me of the passage He gave me just days before ... I Thes. 5:1-5, "Now as to the times you have no need of anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" destruction will come upon them suddenly and they will not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are neither of night nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep, but let us be alert and sober. But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation so that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing."

How very like the Lord to rush in with encouragement the minute we lift our eyes to Him. He has given us an opportunity to be available as those "instruments of divine mercy and grace" that Jack discussed. I have been stirred at the movement of the Lord across the world since that day. I, like so many, am "sobered" by the "times" and filled with Heaven-sent passion to redeem the day. One of the most helpful things Jack said regarding this event was ... "God was not passively absent the 11th anymore than He was actively angry; but He is always redemptively present and ready to use all things in our lives as an instrument of unusual visitation of divine mercy and grace and tenderness."

Our mission is sure that He has called us to tell the world that our Redeemer lives and that He is standing "in the hills" ready to be "redemptively present" in every area of our lives.

I bless you in the name of the Lord and pray that you will know ... Your redeemer draweth nigh! Therefore ... whether the storm is raging or is calm ... either way my dear companions ... in Him ... All is calm.