

The Mighty One in the Midst

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“The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty. He will save. He will rejoice over thee with joy. He will rest in His love. He will joy over thee with singing.” Zeph 3:17.

The Lord made this scripture so very real to me one time. I was having some trouble with my blood. It seemed to be getting quite thin and watery. Very early one morning He spoke those words to me: “The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty.” At first I took it as a promise from the Lord, that He would be with us in the meeting that morning.

It was Sunday morning and I was thanking the Lord that He was going to be present with us in the service. But that wasn't what He was telling me. “The Lord thy God in the midst of THEE is mighty.” Then the revelation of the truth broke in upon my heart - the Lord God in the midst of His temple. The Lord is in this physical body, which is His. He is not off yonder in the heavens merely, but He is come to abide with US. He has come to dwell in us. And as we yield to Him He is nearer to us than any other living person. He desires to be that always. Let us make Him that. Let Him rule in that place constantly.

We belong to Him - body, soul and spirit. Has He not washed us in His own precious blood? Did He not promise to come and abide with us forever? “Christ liveth in me,” Paul said. Does He live in you? Does He LIVE in you? The Lord thy God in the midst of thee! Just like the Tree of Life in the midst of the garden. Hallelujah! He will make our whole being to be a well-watered garden. Life everywhere, because He is there!

The Word says, “The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty. Is! Perhaps we haven't recognized Him so in the past. We have been thinking ourselves a great big something, too big to be dealt with. But the Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty. He is able for everything that concerns us. Able to do that thing that we have tried to do and couldn't. Able to do what we struggled so long to do. Able to bring to pass the thing we have wept over and which has made us fearful and anxious.

Our fears have been many. Oh how we have grieved Him with our mistrust and failing to yield all into His hand when He is mighty! He is in the midst of us to do the thing that He has told us in His Word that He wants to do. He wants to bring us where He is and set us down on the throne with Himself. That is our privilege. Sitting down with Him on a throne!

We worry about it and wonder how can such a thing come to pass. We try so desperately hard to be spiritual. We work so hard at it and then we testify like this: “Pray that I will hold out to the end.” “I am trying in my weak way.” Yes, our way is a weak way. If we only knew what abject poverty we are really in, and then remembered that He is mighty! He IS mighty. Do you want to be spiritual? Quit your trying. Trust in the Lord. All our efforts are in vain. All our trying just wearies us.

We come to the close of the day so filled with mistrust and we weep at our bedside crying, “Lord, can I ever be spiritual?” We try so hard, we strain so, to live up to what we feel a Christian life should really be. How we like to sing that song, “Jesus knows all about our struggles.” Yes, He knows altogether too well all about our struggles. He knows how they gall our necks under the yoke, when He has said, “Take My yoke upon you, “ the yoke that is easy. He will pull the load.

He is more interested in you and me than we could ever possibly be in ourselves. When we come to the close of the day we can look to His face and say, "Father, You kept me today. Jesus, You gave me this victory. It wasn't I, it was You; Thy right arm hath gotten thee the victory." We will see the Lord right before our very eyes doing the thing we vainly strive and struggle to do. He is mighty. He can take care of all these things that are so impossible for us. There is our nature, and our disposition, and our home, and all those folks we have to mingle with. "Oh, how can I ever make the bride, how can I ever make the rapture, Lord? How can I ever be an overcomer? How can I ever go through and be true to Thee?"

Listen to what God says: "He will save." He is in the midst of you. He has come into the house to do that very work for you. He is there to do all He desires; He has come for that purpose. He came in my body to heal, and I felt in my body a sensation like a caterpillar going over me into every vein and artery and capillary in my body. It was a marvelous healing, but it was much more than that. It was a revelation of God Himself within me. He has come to be mighty in the midst. He will save.

We can't do it ourselves. We don't know the first thing about the job. We don't know what would please Him or which way to turn or move. How could I save myself? What can I do to save somebody else? But HE will save, if we trust Him. He wants us to get our eyes on Him these days. Just simply trust Him. Cease all your striving and worrying and fretting and losing the joy He wants you to have in Him. "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice." "In everything give thanks." Just rest Him: He will save. Father will do it. Jesus can get the victory. He will bring us through somehow. He will save from the uttermost to the uttermost. That means every part of us. That means all that concerns us. He will save us, spirit, soul, and body.

He has done a work *for* us. Now He is doing a work *in* us. And when we stand in His presence we are going to be like Him, the Bible tells us so. We wonder how it is going to be. Jesus is so altogether lovely, so perfect, so holy, so pure. We look at ourselves and see our spots and blemishes, then we try to help ourselves. But the only rags we have to adorn our self with are rags of self-righteousness, and that is so opposite to His will. We will do it all. He will work down in our spirit. He will perfect that which concerns us. And He who has started that good work in us will go on and finish it if we but trust Him. Yield to Him, and He will save. He will SAVE. He WILL save.

We have tried and got nowhere, so from now on let us let Jesus do what we can't do. This doesn't give us permission to relax and lay down in our prayer life or stop praising the Lord. How much more should we yield to Him, wait in His presence, and simply trust in Him. Just praising Him and praising, and trusting Him and trusting, and just loving Him and then loving Him and then loving Him. Just give Him that place of supremacy in your life. Love is giving one person preference over every other person, and the Lord Jesus wants that preference. He wants to be loved supremely. He wants us to make Him our own.

We should look into the face of our Father and say, "Father, I am Thine. I commit myself to You. You have invited me to come. Jesus has opened up the way. Now, Father, I am here." And when we put ourselves into His hands He begins to prune and trim within us, and bring us into His plan and program. He will make us into the very likeness and image of His Son.

Listen to what He says: "He will rejoice over thee with joy." He will rejoice! Is He finding joy in you? He will rejoice! Is He finding joy in you? Are you making His heart glad? As He looks down over us and sees us yielding so that He is able to work out His will within us, what rejoicing! "He shall see of the travail of His soul, and be satisfied." And when the Father sees these poor creatures who had been so carnal, so earth-bound, so tied up in themselves, so often

worrying and stewing and fretting and trying to help themselves, just letting Jesus do it, He will rejoice. He can do it so quickly when He is allowed to work. He just speaks self away, and speaks Himself into us. He speaks His nature into us.

Oh, what rejoicing there must be in the heart of the Father as He sees us putting on the righteousness of the Son. More and more He sees reflections of the Christ in the church. He sees His glory and His nature and His character, then He rejoices over her with joy. What joy the Lord Jesus had. What was His joy? "Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the same." Like Moses He was looking ahead. He knew the bride, the church, would be purchased at Calvary; and for the joy that was set before Him He endured the cross, despising the shame.

He prayed that we might have His joy fulfilled in us. That we might be brought into a mutual joy with Him. That we might have fellowship with Him in His joy. Oh, how refreshing to sit in His presence and rejoice in the Lord. Just rejoice in the Lord! "He will rejoice over thee with joy!"

The next words say, "He will rest in His love." What an encouragement this is. What balm for our weary souls. He will rest in His love. We can certainly well afford to rest in Him. Rest in His love. When we rest think of the investment Father made in our soul, oh how could we ever fail to trust Him? How could we experience any unrest whatever? Father knew man would fail Him even before He created him. He knew sin would come. And knowing that, even before creation He ordained that His Son should be the Savior and Redeemer for that fallen man. God knew just what would happen to the church. He knew as much about the church as He knew about the fall of man. He knew whether or not the church would be faithful. We ask, "Father, how could you bring a man into the world if You knew he was going to fail you?" Then he may go to Him again and say, "How could you ever send your Son into the world to save man? Even though You promised it, how could You give Your Son to the world after man had so miserably failed you?"

The only explanation is, "Love." And if our heavenly Father loved us enough to do that, we can well trust in Him and rest in Him. His love for us is so perfect. The Word says, "He will rest in His love." He knows what love will do. He knows what love can bring forth, and accomplish. God is resting. He knows the church will come forth and accomplish. God is resting. He knows the church will come forth. He knows the body will be brought to Him. He knows the Son will have a bride. He knows there are hearts that will respond to His love. Whosoever will! He is looking for those "whosoever wills" and rejoicing over them with great joy.

Then the Word says, "He will joy over thee with singing." In Isaiah 62:5 we read, "For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee; and as a bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee." "He will joy over thee with singing." Let us give Him the joy that His heart yearns for today. Give Him that simple trust in the Lord Jesus that enables Him to do His work which He has come to do. When we are fretful and worry and strive, this temple becomes an upside down house with nothing set in order. But when we are still and cease our striving, then He sets everything in order. He puts out the things with which He cannot fellowship. He speaks, and they are gone. Then He puts Himself within our nature. He gives us His own character. He gives us His grace and clothes us with His glory. He brings us into fellowship with Him, into real companionship. He can then tell us the secrets of His heart. The bride and Bridegroom brought to oneness; perfect trust and confidence.

Let Father work it all out. Just purpose in your heart that He shall have His will done. And immediately He sets to work in us to accomplish that which pleases Him. Let us cease our striving. Let go and let God. Yield, trust, praise, and love, and He will make it all plain.