

Healing Worship – Background & Notes for sharing my story

Six years dealing with chronic pain produced a spiritual battle over God's purposes and presence in suffering. I felt trapped; my heart song silenced. Two weeks before surgery, the Lord provided this imagery to restore the song of my heart and pry open the doors to my caged soul.

Hebrews 13:15

Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him, we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our heart through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

Psalms 107: 21-22

Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of men. And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of his deeds in songs of joy.

Psalms 116:17

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord.

Isaiah 57:18-19

The Lord says – I have seen his ways, but I will heal him, I will lead him and restore comfort to him and his mourners, creating the fruit of the lips.

James 1: 2-4

***Count it all joy**, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have **its** full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. ...*

Ephesians 5:20

*...**giving thanks always and for everything** to God the Father*

2 Samuel 24:2

*But the king said to Araunah, 'No, but I will buy it from you for a price. **I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God that cost me nothing.***

Romans 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

THANKFULNESS takes the sting out of adversity. That is why I have instructed you to give thanks for everything. There is an element of mystery in this transaction: You give Me thanks (regardless of your feelings), and I give you Joy (regardless of your circumstances). This is a spiritual act of obedience—at times, blind obedience. To people who don't know Me intimately, it can seem irrational and even impossible to thank Me for heartrending hardships. Nonetheless, those who obey Me in this way are invariably blessed, even though difficulties may remain.

Thankfulness opens your heart to My Presence and your mind to My thoughts. You may still be in the same place, with the same set of circumstances, but it is as if a light has been switched on, enabling you to see from My perspective. It is this Light of My Presence that removes the sting from adversity.

Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. -EPHESIANS 5:20

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. - PSALM 118:1

*From **JESUS CALLING**, November 24*

Captured Free

Songbird sits, quiet and still
No warble or whistle, no song or trill
Once free to fly, with songs soaring high
On the perch where she sits
Her soul wooden and dry

The view from her cage – dark and drear
No light or shadow, only shades of fear
Dreams shattered
Heart tattered
Pain has silenced her praise

There must be a way to regain her song
But night after night the silence grows long
Freedom and joy – mere memories now
Still, faint though it be, hope wonders how
A melody stirs in the darkness

Slowly light dawns upon the small locked cage
Revealing the way known to the wise and the sage
In this new morning she would take a chance
To free her soul and rejoin the dance
Humming the melody of the darkness

Imperceptible at first, the cage doors released
Giving flight to her wings as imprisonment ceased.
Tearful, yet growing stronger, her song she raised
Offering up a sacrifice of praise
Giving thanks for the limitations of her life in the cage.

By Linda J. L. Radach
November, 2012

And then, last week I read this from a booklet our family uses for daily devotions together – *Our Daily Bread*

March 4, 2016 – ***For His Time***

My times are in your hands.

James 1:2-4 and Psalm 31:15

When South African pastor Andrew Murray was visiting England in 1895, he began to suffer pain from a previous back injury. While he was recuperating, his hostess told him of a woman who was in great trouble and wanted to know if he had any counsel for her. Murray said, “Give her this paper which I have been writing for my own [encouragement]. It may be that she will find it helpful.” This is what Murray wrote:

“In time of trouble say: God will keep us by His love. By His grace, we can rest in Him.

First—God brought me here. It is by His will I am in this strait place. In that I will rest.

Next—He will keep me in His love and give me grace in this trial to behave as His child.

Then—He will make the trial a blessing, teaching me lessons He intends me to learn, and working in me the grace He means to bestow.

Last—In His good time He can bring me out again—how and when He knows.

I am here—by God’s appointment, in His keeping, under His training, for His time.”

We want the instant solution, the quick fix, but some things cannot be disposed of so readily; they can only be accepted. God will keep us by His love. By His grace, we can rest in Him.

Dear Lord, it’s hard to endure times of illness and suffering. Comfort me and help me to trust You.

When God permits suffering, He also provides comfort.