

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT.

12 years have gone by since my father went Home. Somehow I am not the type that would weep every year. Of course the pain is there, the pain of him not being there. It will be there till I close my eyes. But customary mourning and still grieving is not going to help. My father would have really hated if I were to cry my eyes out every year.

He ran his race to the finishing line. He did not move mountains for the Kingdom, but he was known Above. The little what he did, he did it with all his soul, mind, body and strength.

But in those days soon after my father's death I was so distraught. I think God sent me this image. I really don't know whether it was a dream or a vision. But one thing I remember so clearly in my mind is this picture. As usual, me and daddy are walking together in a lone, long highway. At a certain point he stopped and sat slumped near a mile stone and could not walk further. I stopped there. I distinctly remember that he didn't speak but showed me thumbs up sign and urged me to walk ahead. My heart was ripped apart, but I had to walk on, leaving him there. Then after quite a distance I turned back and saw him blurred in a distance. I saw him smile and he lifted a finger and pointed above my head, I looked up and saw a cloud over my head and he closed his eyes. That's all. He knew he left me in safe Hands before he closed his eyes.

I have always remembered the dream. It always reminds me that it is only the Presence of God that will come with us till the end. But we also have our part to run in this world. We have our bit of walking, running to do for the Kingdom. This world is not our home, we are just passing through.

But even in this little bit of life, God has put His eternity in our hearts. Isn't it wonderful to know that mortal as we are, we hold the eternal God in our hearts. A life fully lived is a life lived, knowing the call of God on our lives and the purpose which God has created us for.

In His word, God says clearly that "He knows the plans He has for us."(Jeremiah 29,11). So God has a plan for us. Do we know what God's plan is in our lives? God's plan in our lives will always involve His Kingdom Affairs. He has created us so that we will be "the planting of His glory."(Isaiah 61,13).

God wants all of us to be part of His Kingdom. All His people were given a portion to rebuild the broken wall of Jerusalem. Do we know what our portion is in the Kingdom of Heaven? When the bell rings for me, can I join with Paul saying, "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." II Timothy 4:7. Let us not wait till it is too late. Let us rise up and build.

We know this passage from Ecclesiastes last chapter. It is very metaphorical. The Amplified Bible explains all the metaphors. I pray that the Lord opens our eyes to the portion He has for us to build in His Kingdom, before it is too late.

Ecclesiastes. 12 Remember [earnestly] also your Creator [that you are not your own, but His property now] in the days of your youth, before the evil days come or the years draw near when you will say [of physical pleasures], I have no enjoyment in them—

² Before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened [sight is impaired], and the clouds [of depression] return after the rain [of tears];

³ In the day when the keepers of the house [the hands and the arms] tremble, and the strong men [the feet and the knees] bow themselves, and the grinders [the molar teeth] cease because they are few, and those who look out of the windows [the eyes] are darkened;

⁴ When the doors [the lips] are shut in the streets and the sound of the grinding [of the teeth] is low, and one rises up at the voice of a bird *and* the crowing of a cock, and all the daughters of music [the voice and the ear] are brought low;

⁵ Also when [the old] are afraid of danger from that which is high, and fears are in the way, and the almond tree [their white hair] blooms, and the grasshopper [a little thing] is a burden, and desire *and* appetite fail, because man goes to his everlasting home and the mourners go about the streets *or* marketplaces.

⁶ [Remember your Creator earnestly now] before the silver cord [of life] is snapped apart, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern [and the whole circulatory system of the blood ceases to function];

⁷ Then shall the dust [out of which God made man's body] return to the earth as it was, and the spirit shall return to God Who gave it.