

Rejoice for the pain

AND SURELY I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE VERY END OF THE AGE.
Matthew 28.20

I was thinking again and again about the faithfulness of our Lord and I am amazed that He would yet again trust me so much. Just as David said, I could only say "Who am I, O Sovereign Lord, and what is my family that you have brought me thus far?" II Samuel 7, 18. Faithful is He who called us and He will do it!

Well are you feeling lonely? Have your friends forgotten you? Is there no call from your loved ones? Has someone, whom you have trusted deeply, let you down? If so REJOICE. Rejoice and again I say rejoice. You may not understand, but it is only when you stand alone in pain and sorrow could you really feel the solid presence of God who promised never to leave you nor forsake you. Sometimes God Himself cuts down the support we are clinging on so that we will fully learn to trust in Him. It is basically His love which prunes us. I wrote a poem last night titled *looking back*. I was thinking about the past year and then I noticed when I was happy and so fully assured of the Lord's presence I always had a crowd around me, I was always wanted, my phone was constantly ringing and I had a tough time managing schedules.

But when doubts crept in and I started retreating, somehow strangely none remembered me. There was total silence and then it was only my Lord whom I ran away from, stayed with me day after day, patiently enduring my complaints, my doubts, wiping away my fears, reassuring me and never leaving me. Yeah when the Lord promises I will never leave you He will always be with you, no matter what. Do not blame your friends for forgetting you or abandoning you, it is only part of God's plan to bring you more closer to Him, to enter into a more intimate relationship.

Remember Joseph, when he was a teenager he was left for dead by his own brothers then he is sold as a slave. After years, now he becomes co-king in Egypt and his brothers come to Egypt for food. They couldn't even recognize Joseph, when at last Joseph reveals his identity, his brothers begin to tremble. Joseph gave this classic reply

"Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." Genesis 50, 19.

I pray that the Lord give us the wisdom and maturity of Joseph to see what was God's long term plan in allowing him to be sold into slavery, to languish in a prison wrongly accused. He was lifted up. If you are rejected, lonely and abandoned hold on to the Lord and He is the lifter of your head. Psalm 3, 3. Praise God for people who hurt you. They bring you closer to the heart of God. May God bless Joseph's brothers in our lives for they are our ladders?

Lord open our eyes so that we may see what your intentions are when we suffer in sickness, loneliness, pain and rejection. Be glorified in everything. In Jesus name. Amen