

Peace From Above

Last Friday I made a 284 mile round trip to YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly, in Black Mountain for a conference planning meeting. The late January weather was rainy with temperatures hovering right around freezing, so it took extra care for the drive. The most treacherous part was a 30 mile stretch in the highest elevations, with fog, steady rain and heavy truck traffic making visibility a challenge.



I knew what to expect in advance. For the week prior to the trip I watched weather forecasts for the mountains. Each forecast predicted exactly the weather incurred. I was mentally prepared, not that I enjoy bad weather driving, but because I had asked God in advance for His protection. That allowed me to be at peace the entire way, as long I was conscientious in my driving.

There are times when we can predict a difficult week or time looming on the horizon. Perhaps it is a crazy schedule that will cause us to struggle to maintain balance in our life. Perhaps there is a very difficult meeting or appointment on the schedule – one we don't look forward to. Perhaps we don't feel quite ready to tackle a particular

task. Or perhaps we feel there is a tenuous situation ahead and we fear the “other shoe” is about to drop. We suspect what is to come and fear a crisis is about to unfold.

So, how do you handle those kinds of weeks? Do you grit your teeth and try to bully your way through the situation? Do you lose sleep worrying about the potential dangers and every possibility of what could go wrong? Both of these examples are all about relying on your own human strength, and shutting God out. Or, do you turn it over to God, do your part, and let God do the rest. Just thinking about relying on God for strength gives me a sense of peace. The problem was probably bigger than me in the first place, so allowing God to be part of the solution matches His power with the task to overcome. No contest. You can be at peace.

Fog and rain make our world a real challenge. We can't see ahead clearly and fear the unknown. Close to the surface where we live, storms make our life more difficult and sometimes downright miserable. But, the God you call upon for strength and peace *is above the clouds*. From His vantage point the sky is blue, the sun is shining and God can clearly see what is ahead. If you ask Him to help you He will do it with the knowledge of what you need for the moment and the future to come. That is the kind of partner you want. Bring Him into the conversation early.

Let God carry you through the tough times towards a time of clear sailing. Before you start your journey, first ask God to protect you and give you strength. Then, in an atmosphere of peace move ahead with the confidence God is with you every step of the way. Because of your faith you can live your life in peace.

Question: When you anticipate a difficult situation do you ask God to help, guide and to protect you? Does that give you a sense of peace?

Scripture: *Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way prosperity will come to you (Job 22:21)*

Prayer: Lord, you didn't send us into the world to struggle and be alone. You promised to be with us to the end of the age. Let us open our hearts to receive the peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.