

Living in a Fog

Thanksgiving has always been a time for Kathy and me to be with family. Living in the Southeast meant a 14-hour, all-night drive to our parent's home for Thanksgiving. Every other year, the drive was through the Smoky Mountains in the middle of the night. More often than not, I-40 was blanketed with fog, especially in November, in the transition from fall to winter. When driving through the fog, we navigated by following the vehicle's tail lights ahead of us and the markings on the side of the road. It was a great comfort when there was a vehicle to lead me. Oh yes, there were lots of prayers, too. Driving through heavy fog was dangerous.



I thought about that journey when I read the November 16th devotion in Jesus Calling. The reading gave the analogy of life's "twisted, complicated path" to be like living in a fog. You don't know what is ahead, but God does. And He guides you. Jesus Calling described it this way: ***"You wonder how you can possibly find your way through that maze. Then you remember the One who is with you always, holding you by your right hand. You recall My promise to guide you with My counsel, and you begin to relax. As you look again at the path ahead, you notice that a peaceful fog has settled over it, obscuring your view. You can see only a few steps in front of you, so you turn your attention more fully to Me and begin to enjoy My Presence. The fog is a protection for you, calling you back into the present moment... Someday, the fog will no longer be necessary, for you will have learned to keep your focus on Me and on the path just ahead of you."***

So, how is the fog a protection rather than a hindrance as we navigate life? If we knew the upcoming events of our lives, we would try to manipulate them. We would seek our way rather than God's, trying to alter the outcome for our purposes. For all of us, the road ahead will have unpleasant events and heartaches, most of which are out of our control. We need God's counsel and the peace He offers us. The view of the future is obscured "by the fog," so we must live for today, trusting that God is in control. If we are too busy trying to take control of the future, we ignore that God is always with us. We need to trust God and give it over to Him. Focus on God as you drive through the events of your life.

The fog inevitably lifted as we emerged from the mountain roads on our annual Thanksgiving drive. We looked forward to a family reunion and a wonderful Thanksgiving meal. When the fog of our life lifts, we can look forward to a reunion of believers in Heaven. What a wonderful meal and celebration. Happy Thanksgiving!

The Word of God for the People of God: *Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory (Psalm 73:23-24).*

Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. (Psalm 25: 4-5).

Closing Prayer: Dear God. We seek your guidance, counsel, and peace as we live our lives. Help us to overcome the obstacles and lead us to an eternal destination with You. Amen.

¹ Jesus Calling, by Sarah Young. Page 335