



God Hold Us In His Hand

Isaiah 41:10

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Dear Opal,

Have you ever contemplated the moment in your life when you recognized that there was a Force much greater than yourself? Perhaps, it happened gradually and simply became a part of your thinking process without your knowledge, or at a very distinct time in your life.

Although you cannot see the image that is displayed at the top of the page, it has great meaning as to how I view God as Creator. Instead of the Great I Am needing to hold the entire world using both his hands, it has been drawn so that the planet earth is resting on only two of his fingers. (I can hear your reaction to this playing in my mind before I even complete this sentence. Oh, what fun it would be to hear your wisdom on this subject.)

Given the drawing chosen, you have probably already guessed that my thoughts regarding a higher power began with some drama. If so, you are absolutely correct!

Opal, one Christmas night, when I was just five, my little brain suddenly began to think about Baby Jesus with such intensity that I asked my mother if I could stand on the sidewalk that connected to the back porch of our house and look for something special in the sky.

Since December had been filled with Christmas programs, caroling, and all the festivities that are associated with this time of the year, Baby Jesus was truly at the front and center of my mind. *Where was Baby Jesus at this very moment? Was he up in the sky with his Heavenly Father? Was the star that the Wise Men followed still up there in the night sky, too?* Many unanswered questions were ruminating in the mind of one so young!

You see, on that bitter cold, crystal blue, winter night when the heavens above my head were ablaze with gillions of stars, not a cloud obstructed the view of a curious child that was intent on uncovering spiritual truths that had suddenly called for answers; those that were truly way above her head. (No pun intended.)

Thus, standing like a little statue with eyes traveling across the sky resembling a beacon light in a desperate search for just the right object, the array of blinking stars seemed to send this curious little 5-year-old girl a message straight from God. Even though they were light-years away from earth, she determined in her

mind that one was twinkling in such a special way that it could only be that of the Christ Child for whom she so desperately searched. Without doubt, Baby Jesus was blinking the message that she would forever be loved by him.

Today, as I look back at that unusual happening, I truly do not believe it was simply a little girl's fantasy, but was God calling her by name and beckoning her toward him as a loving Father. The Creator of all that was, is, and ever will be, thought her child-like questions to be of great significance. On that special night, a little youngster recognized someone bigger than herself. In my opinion, at this instant, a connection had been made that was predestined by him to last eternally; a bond that could never be severed. After all, *Psalm 147:4* states, ***"He determines the number of stars and calls them each by name."*** In retrospect, given these words, that little 5-year-old girl's thinking was not so far-off mark after all.

Certainly, it must be acknowledged by man that, although God longs for all his children to remain in his care, he will never force himself on anyone. In fact, he is so head over heels in love with all his people that when one of them dedicates his life to the Lord the entire heavenly hosts wildly celebrate; one that occurred for this old gal at age twelve.

Additionally, his true personality and character can be witnessed by soaking in the beauty of the world in which we all live. The colors, textures, and rhythm of all forms of life are designed in a way that no human can recreate. Truly creation is a miracle that is unfathomable. One author, Eric Metaxas stated it quite explicitly with the following quote from his book titled "Miracles" this way: ***"Our existence is an outrageous and astonishing miracle, one so startlingly and perhaps so disturbingly miraculous that it makes any miracle like the parting of the Red Sea pale in such insignificance that it almost becomes unworthy of our consideration, as though it were something done easily by a small child, half-asleep. It is something to which the most truly human response is some combination of terror and wonder, of ancient awe and childhood joy."***

Yet, as human beings, we go on down the "road home" infatuated so much with "self" that we spend many hours prancing around like peacocks, thinking we have

accomplished status in life all on our own, without a thought that all blessings come for God's own bountiful hand. No material goods belong to us or will matter at the point of our departure from this earth. Instead, we will go out exactly as we arrived. We will be naked, and our soul laid bare with only our Creator present. Why are the lessons in life so hard for us to learn? Why does it seem impossible for man to grasp the fact that God is the expert and no one else? After all, **Genesis 3:19** reads, **"You are dust and to dust you will return."**

Today, as we are all told to take shelter from a contagious, destructive virus that has literally traversed the entire world with such speed and force that it has brought God's entire creation to a halt, it could be surmised that members of the human race are befuddled and confused, to say the least.

Just think how mystified people are that have the mind set of being in total control of every moment of their journey, to the point of become self-proclaimed atheists.

Given society's current behavior patterns, Perhaps, it is time for mankind to pause and reflect on who is truly in charge; a process that has the potential to bring about a spiritual awakening.

In order to show how truly relevant, the teachings of the Bible are today, let us think back in Scripture when the Hebrews were being led out of captivity from Egypt. Do you recall that God was very specific as to what was to occur within each household regarding being spared as the angel of death passed over? Only the residences that had blood painted above their door frame would survive. In other words, those living within each dwelling were "sheltered in place." Sound familiar? Do you suppose the bottom line is, "God was in charge then as well as now?" I most certainly feel this is true. Perhaps it is time for his creation to gain a new prospective about who is in control and accept the basic truism that no one can survive for even a second without Him.

Perhaps, given the state that we now find ourselves in because of a virus that has taken us to our knees, it is time to bow in reverence and heed his directions that are clearly written:

2 Chronicles 7:14

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will heal their land.”



Then, when it is all said and done, by regaining our proper perspective, we will have followed the greatest commandment by loving our God with all our heart, mind and soul and our neighbor as ourselves.

If this proclamation by our Lord were followed, peace would reign and violence would not even be an issue. Civility would once again be the usual practice, not the exception.

In closing, visualize my hand on your forehead as the following words are spoken using thoughts penned by an unknown poet as a perfect way to end our time together. Since the Hebrews defined bless as bringing a gift to another while kneeling in respect, please accept this as our closing prayer:

GOD BLESS YOU

I seek in prayerful words, dear friend,
My heart's true wish to send you,
That you may know that, far or near,
My loving thoughts attend you.

I cannot find a truer word,
Nor better to address you;
Nor song, nor poem have I heard
Is sweeter than God bless you!

God bless you! So I've wished you all
Of brightness life possesses;
For can there any joy at all
Be yours unless God blesses?

God bless you! So I breathe a charm
Lest grief's dark night oppress you,
For how can sorrow bring you harm
If 'tis God's way to bless you?

And so, "through all thy days
May shadows touch thee never---"
But this alone—God bless thee---
Then art thou safe forever.



*Love,
Colene*