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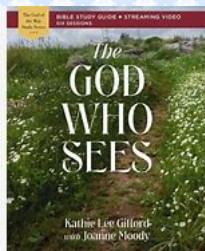
Prayer Support Groups

No Prayer Support
Meeting through September

Ladies Bible Study

Each Tuesday
At On Wings Office
From 12:30-2:00

We are studying
The God Who Sees
by Kathy Lee Gifford



Come Join Us!



A Newsletter from On Wings Like A Dove Ministry

June 2024 Vol. 20 Issue 6

El Roi, The God Who Sees

"She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me"
Genesis 16:13

God speaks and prepares us for all kinds of encounters, and it thrills me every time. Oft times it is a passage of scripture I have read, a study I am doing, or a song or message I have heard that God uses. I know He is always preparing me as I have my time in the mornings with Him for His purposes in the days to come. I might need His message personally, or He might be teaching me so I can share with others in my daily life.

We just finished studying "The Names of God" by Melissa Spoelstra and I studied the name El Roi the morning before I went to the Ophthalmologist for my annual eye examination. The next Bible Study we have chosen was entitled, "The God Who Sees" by Kathie Lee Gifford. I was enthralled by the video she produced with Nicole Mullins on the story of Hagar as she said, "You are the God who sees me". Then Kathie decided to provide a bible study to go more in-depth on the topic.

We, like Hagar, can know that in our valleys God is with us and He sees our pain, frustration, and hears our cries. What a thought; He knows, He sees, He hears, and bottom line He cares. He could have left Hagar out in her seclusion alone, but He came to her as she felt abused and mistreated.

Can you imagine her thoughts? Here I have given of myself to lay down my life to conceive a child for another woman and now I am out on my own in a desert and my child and I are going to die. She is an Egyptian slave who belonged to Sarai. Since Sarai was unable to conceive, she gave Hagar to Abram as a wife so she could have a child through her. But before we get to far ahead let's look at Hagar's change of heart towards Sarai: "she looked with contempt on her mistress".

We can often resist returning to a relationship where we felt abused or taken advantage of but guess what? The angel who presented to Hagar said it this way: "Go back to your mistress and submit to her. The angel added, 'I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count. You are now pregnant, and you will give birth to a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the Lord has heard of your misery. He will be a wild donkey of a man....'" (see Genesis 16:9-12).

The way God used this lesson on the morning of my visit to the Doctors office was cool. It was a way of giving testimony to her in her pursuit to make sure that I was seeing the way I needed to see due to some personal vision issues I was having. I did not know where the doctor stood in her understanding of God's truths, but it enabled me to drop a seed into her heart. Her response was, "what is that name?" I was able to say it is El Roi Who sees and knows all things concerning us and I pray that she will investigate the subject further.

~ Sandra



Prayer Thoughts

The Slightest Bit

Did you ever think you'd like to live in the Bible times? In synagogues today, in the center of the bema/podium is an ark/ornamental cabinet which contains the Torah scroll/first five books of Moses. That's how it was in Bible times. People didn't have their own Bible, it was a scroll at synagogue. Today, it's completely different. You can get all the Scriptures, study Bibles, commentaries, and a concordance at your local bookstore or on your phone that you carry in your pocket. In Bible times, they couldn't afford such treasures and no synagogue could house them. The slightest bit of scripture was precious. You live in a generation which has the Word of God so accessible. Are you going to let a day go by without reading it, without receiving it, meditating on it, letting it soak in, and applying it to your life? You're sitting on a gold mine. If you want to be blessed, treasure the Treasure.

Taken From Sapphires of Hope
April 25, 2024

*Oh, the joys of those who do not
follow the advice of the wicked,
or stand around with sinners,
or join in with mockers.*

*But they delight in the law of the Lord,
meditating on it day and night.*

Psalm 1:1-2



The Authority of Jesus

All authority . . . has been given to me. Matthew 28:18

Even after Jesus had set my son Geoff free from years of substance abuse, I still had worries. We'd been through much together and my focus sometimes remained on his difficult past instead of the future God had for him. Parents of addicts often worry about relapse, and one day at a family gathering, I pulled Geoff aside. "Remember," I told him, "we have an adversary, and he's powerful." "I know, Dad," he responded. "He has power, but he has no authority."

In that moment, I was reminded of Jesus' incomparable authority to rescue us from our sins and transform our lives as we look to Him. Immediately I thought of His words to the disciples shortly before He returned to His Father in heaven: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go . . ." (Matthew 28:18-19).

The crucified and risen Jesus has made a way for us to come to Him no matter what our past may be. He holds both our past and our future. Because He's promised to be with us always (v. 20), we can be assured that He'll accomplish His purposes and that our lives are in His unfailing hands. Jesus gives us unparalleled hope, a hope so good we can't keep it to ourselves. The devil and the world may have some power for a little while, but "all authority" belongs to Jesus forever.

Taken From Our Daily Bread
May 1, 2024



FLOURISHING IN GOD'S FOREST

On a recent trip out West, we visited Sequoia National Park. Oh, the beauty of God's creation! We stood in amazement at the height and width of the majestic Sequoia tree. Sequoias can grow to 250-300 feet, and their width, at the base, have over a 30 foot diameter and a circumference of over 94 feet.

They are particular in where they grow, but once established can have a life span spanning thousands of years.

While walking through a grove of Sequoias, we were saddened to learn of the recent increase in disease and death in Sequoias, far above what has been observed and documented in the past. The two main culprits are fire and insects. These culprits are not new to the forest, but the trees are becoming increasingly susceptible to their attacks, presumably because of the combined effects of draught and increasing temperatures.

Trees are often mentioned in the Bible, 257 times by one source. Next to God and people, trees are the most mentioned living thing in the Bible. We are often associated with trees:

Ps 1:3 "He is like a tree planted by streams of water,..."

Ps 52:8 "I am like an olive tree."

Like trees, we have culprits that attack us, weakening our faith and life in Jesus. Watching the news can bring despair and worry; seeing unchanging bad situations, that we have prayed over for an extended time, can bring doubt and sadness. Financial concerns, health concerns, death of loved ones all contribute to our increased susceptibility to attacks by our own versions of "fire and insects".

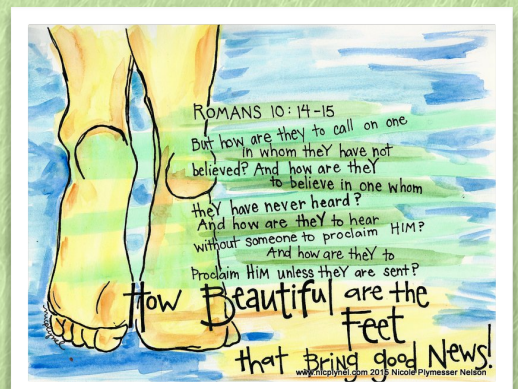
How are we to combat the effects of draught and increasing temperatures in our lives? We can draw nourishment from God's Word, water from the streams of life. Clinging to God's promises and trusting them to be true, believing in not what we can see but in what we know to be true, that God is faithful, that He loves us and is actively working things out for both His glory and our good.

Trees communicate with each other through a network of fungal and root connections, referred to by botanists as "the wood-wide web". They are strengthened through their connections to each other. We, too, are strengthened during draught and attacks by being in community with other believers. On Wings Like a Dove Tuesday Bible study is such a place; friends supporting, encouraging, exhorting and praying for each other through the storms of life.

An interesting point about fire in the forest: it can provide an essential benefit to the health of the forest and to new tree growth. Fires remove low-growing underbrush, clean the forest floor of debris, open the floor to sunlight and nourish the soil. Fire can be good to bring stronger and healthier life to trees – and to us. One more fun fact: many evergreen tree cones need fire to open up and spill their seeds. The cones are sealed with a resin which needs high heat to melt it off. The heat of the fire allows seeds to come forth and fall to the newly fertilized ground, to bring forth new life. The trials we are going through may be designed to bring new life to others and a stronger spiritual life to us. God wants us to "flourish like a palm tree, grow like a cedar of Lebanon" (Ps 92:12), being solid, strong and immovable (in Him) during life circumstances and events. To our incredible, creative God be all glory!

But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,
whose confidence is in Him.
They will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.
It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.
It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit

Jeremiah 17:7-8



Book Review #6

The Return of The Prodigal Son

by Henri J.M. Nouwen

This is the story of two sons and their Father taken from Luke 15:11-32. You may be very familiar with it or maybe you have never read it. Why not take the time to read it now.

The author of this book had an encounter with a poster presenting a detailed picture painted by Rembrandt entitled "The Return of the Prodigal Son" in 1983. It captured Henri's attention and touched him deeply. One of the first things that drew him was the hands of the old father pressing his returning younger son to his chest. This son had returned from the pig pen asking forgiveness for his actions. The painting is on the front of the book and speaks volumes. I would love to come face to face with the original painting as Henry Nouwen eventually did.

The elder son was a different story as his anger seems to show as he stands in the distance. There was repentance, but also anger. The father offered him mercy, but sadly he resisted it. Our Heavenly Father is extending His hand to come to Him, but we hold Him at arm's length instead of crawling up close to Him and being open to His touch which brings us healing when we feel rejected, betrayed, unloved, or that we don't measure up to His expectations. The Father's outstretched hands are not begging, grasping, demanding, warning, judging, or condemning. They are hands that only bless, giving all and expecting nothing.

The Prodigal Story is one the Lord allowed me to live as I walked the journey of

addiction with our son. People often have the mistaken idea that to be addressed as a Prodigal you must go to the literal pig pen, but I have come to define a prodigal as this: anyone who has walked away from God's plan and purpose for their lives. Who among us has not been a prodigal? I love that the story is broken down into parts: The Younger Son, The Elder Son, and The Father. Each part expounds on the character of each player in the story and explains their situation in depth from their perspective.

No matter where I fall in the life of characters in this story, I know that my Father will not only come to greet me on my return as an elder child or

as the younger one. He is watching and waiting and eager to come out and welcome me with His unconditional love and forgiveness. Oh, how I praise Him for that no matter how many times I stray from the beaten path of life. Just knowing His love is always there no matter what I do or don't do is something I pray I will never forget. My fellowship may be broken at times because of my own disobedience but the Heavenly Father's relationship with me will never be broken. Oh, thank You Lord for Your amazing grace!



~ Sandra