

When His Blessings Are Poured Out Upon Us

Yesterday we came back from vacation. The first thing we noticed were the potted bushes that were so parched and shriveled on our porch. “Well, it is time to plant new flowers here anyway,” Marleen decided.

But try as we might we could not pluck the plants from the hard, packed soil. So Marleen began to pour water into the first pot. It was like watching the end of a great drought. The hard, packed soil gulped down the water. Those leaves still left on the bush trembled and it was easy to imagine what an ecstasy the bush must have been feeling as it was almost drowned in the very blessing it had needed most for so long, *water.*

When the bubbles quit coming to the top Marleen reached down and very easily plucked the bush from the soil. Out it came, roots and all. Then she cast it over the wall into the darkness.

Are we not in the same quandary? As long as we are struggling valiantly with our challenges and adversities our roots are locked into place so tightly that nothing can knock us loose. Yet in the very hour of our redemption, when the blessings we have prayed for so earnestly are at last poured out upon us, aren't we then the most vulnerable to losing our haven of safety? Isn't it all too easy then to relax our hold on the gospel and neglect our prayers?

Haven't we all seen some friend fall away from the beliefs that sustained him in times of adversity, and go forth seeking new pleasures — often spending those very blessings he received, leaving the armor of God stashed at home in the closet?

Don't we need to be more mindful to pray? -- pray not for an end to our challenges, but to beg for strength instead. Before we find our vines cast over the walls into darkness let us build solid roots at home, roots strong enough to withstand even those blessings we receive.

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