

Standing on the Truth

By Christine Anderson

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen.

For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

Life is hard. Sometimes it seems to smack you right between the eyes and just when you are sure you are getting back on your feet – SMACK – there it is again.

In the past three months, three people I know have been diagnosed with cancer...the Missouri River is flooding in our area, leaving many homeless...tornadoes have ripped apart towns in the south, Missouri and Oklahoma...and the Mississippi has flooded as well. Turn on the evening news and it is just one story after another about shootings, war, crime and violence – here and abroad. Don't forget the "regular" stuff like car accidents, poverty and death.

I can't fix any of it. Sure I can make food and store things for people, but I can't stop a flood. I can give words of encouragement, but I can't cure cancer. I can give money to help rebuild towns, but I can't stop a tornado from striking again. I feel so helpless in the face of it all. It feels like the world that I thought I knew wasn't real and I start to question what I can count on and what I can't.

It is in these moments when I have to go back to what I KNOW is true. I know that God is the creator of everything and everyone. I know that Jesus Christ is God in the flesh. I know that He died on the cross paying the penalty for my sins and the sins of all who put their faith in Him. I know that I am dearly loved as a child of God. I know that God is good and that He cares about the dailyness of our lives. I know that He has a plan and a purpose for every one of us and it is a plan for good. I know that God is in control and that He has a reason for allowing things, even bad things, into our lives. I know He can be trusted and that He is always faithful to us and to His promises. And I know Jesus loves you so much that He would have died on that cross even if you were the only person to trust in Him.

Jesus said in John 16:33, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Jesus says we can have peace IN HIM. We aren't going to find peace anywhere else. Outside of Him we will find fear, anxiety and hopelessness.

Friend, I don't know where you are today with the Lord. I don't know if you are a true believer, an unbeliever, or somewhere in between. I don't know what is going on in your life – whether you are in a state of relative calm or whether life has recently given you a nice smack between the eyes - but I can tell you this: the only thing that is truly dependable in this world is Jesus Christ. He will never change and He is always faithful.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you in ministry. I pray that you have peace through Jesus Christ and that when life does throw you a curve-ball (and it undoubtedly will) that you will remember that the truth of God never, ever changes and I pray you will find comfort and rest in the Lord. Remember "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and tomorrow." (Hebrews 13:8)

Amen.

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