

Spiritual Care Message with Prayer

A few days ago I arrived 'back home again in Indiana' from a month's visit with a daughter in Pennsylvania. As usual, I had a lovely time...one of my favorite things is having coffee early mornings on their porch...very early when the world is just waking up and coming to attention.

While I was there I thoroughly enjoyed the lush, green foliage and grass...flowers were at their peak, everywhere was green because of rain at least once a week.

I never knew it had not rained at all or very little in Indianapolis for the month of June. It was hard to believe the brown grass, the dead shrubs, the stunted flowers, buds that had not flowered...incredibly sad...some of the Creeping Jenny I think is beautiful, had disappeared. Not only no water but days of ninety-degree temperatures.

Looking at it, the thought came to me that what I was seeing was a picture of life without Christ, life without the underground fountain/springs of the Holy Spirit, life without the development of love and kindness and health that springs forth when God is present. The heat of trials and testing, the absence of things giving life purpose, barren and lifeless, stunted growth, the look of death, the absence of blossoms and flowers and the beautiful side effects of life lived with love and grace. In contrast, when we have been born again, when our Spirit is indwelt by our Creator, God, underground, invisible to us, is that river of life provided by the Holy Spirit that makes for healthy growth and satisfied needs. It is His life.

So I thanked our Father for His gift of life to me...all is His doing because of His Grace. Just today we had rain... not lots of rain but enough that the grass around our house turned from brown to green, from death to life. What was needed was water. What is needed for life, true life, is also water...that water of life God provides for us in Jesus Christ. It is the water He offered the woman at the well so she would never thirst again. The water of life...come and drink. It is ours for the taking...He offers, and we drink. Life changes because we change when we drink from the fountain that never runs dry...Jesus Christ. Sometimes life gets very complicated and difficult...we try everything to fix it, but only God can restore and replenish.

Lois

Prayer:

Father, show me today what I may be missing from you in not knowing you personally, or bypassing you for earthly things I hope will help. Help me in my feeling that life is empty and lonely. Help me so I can truly help others who are also needing to belong to the 'family of God.' Amen

(1e/Aug 2022)