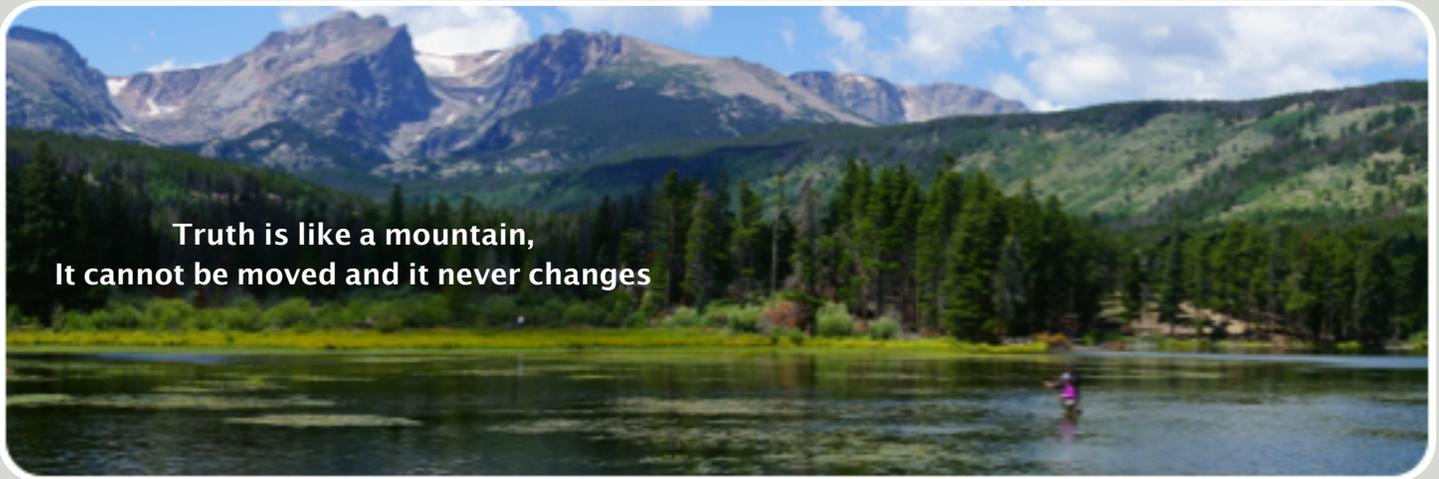


FEBRUARY 2020

"TRUTH"

**A SURE WORD
FOR TODAY**



Truth is like a mountain,
It cannot be moved and it never changes

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NEXT MONTH

COMING IN MARCH

In the Bible, rain is always connected to God's blessing. That is why what we saw in January of this year was so significant. Because our US news media was so focused on the horrible attempt to overthrow our duly elected president, the historic rains Israel received may have gone unnoticed by many.

In March we will give you details of the situation and also show you a spiritual connection we should all be looking for.

These are amazing times when God is doing amazing things. When Israel gets blest in the natural realm, there has always been a corresponding spiritual blessing that followed. Be sure and check out our March issue of "TRUTH". It will bless and encourage you.

GOD IS STILL IN CONTROL!

FEATURE ARTICLE: "BLESSINGS IN DISGUISE"

WARNING: You are entering the "TRUTH ZONE". You may not like what you read. At times it may make you feel uncomfortable. That is not my goal. My goal is to speak truth that will provide spiritual guidance for you and your family in a time of great spiritual darkness.

You can be sure that what you read here will be TRUTH!

Last year, in the first part of November, we attended City Lights Church in Greeley. Kurt and Emily Chamberlain are the pastors of this young growing church and have been doing an outstanding job. We dearly love them and consider it our church home when we are in Greeley.

On this particular Sunday, I looked out over the congregation and my attention focused on two married couples and a woman who had recently lost her husband. The two couples were sitting in different sections but just happened to be lined up so that I could view both at the same time. The widow was about five or six rows behind them. The thing that drew my attention was the fact that out of all the people there, these five were worshiping with the most intensity. The worship and praise that day was good and nearly all were engaged, but these five were obviously taking it to a much higher level.

This, by itself, is not unusual because in every worship service there are always some that enter in with more enthusiasm. But the thing I found so fascinating were the stories of these five people. I know all five very well and have personally observed them walk through the fires of great adversity. In recent years both couples had faced illnesses that were life-threatening. These were not situations that were quickly resolved, but rather battles that had lasted years. The widow had recently lost her husband; Miss Linda and I had attended his funeral.

Perhaps now you understand why my attention was riveted on them. I was captivated by what I was seeing. How could this be? How could anyone who had walked through so much adversity be filled with so much love and adoration for their God? I knew this story was going to find its way into one of our Truth Newsletter articles, but I needed to give it more thought before I wrote about it. Three months

have now gone by and I believe God has given me some insight that will bless you.

Observations from my own life have taught me that worship and praise can result from a number of different circumstances. First there is the obvious. When we get an answer to prayer, or a material possession that we view as a gift from God, we are filled with praise and thanksgiving. I think we would all agree this is as it should be.

Then there is praise and worship that some people believe is a manifestation of their faith and that God requires it before he will give them their miracle. If that is what you believe, I will not try to convince you otherwise. But I will tell you that this has never worked well for me. In my world it feels way too much like a doctrine of works; my faith becomes a work of my flesh.

However, I believe there is another level of worship and praise that is far deeper than either of these. It is not dependent on what God has given me nor is it motivated by my effort to get something from God. This level of praise and worship has, as its foundation, a revelation of the fact that there is a God who is worthy of all praise and honor, all the time and in every situation! He is worthy when He blesses me and He is just as worthy when I fail to see answers to my prayers and am forced to walk through the valley of the shadow of death.

This brings me to the main point I want to make in this article. Usually we view trials and tests as something to be avoided at all cost. We don't like them, and for sure, we don't want them. We view them as something from the devil and just can't understand why an all-powerful God allows us to go through them. Many have wrestled with this question and have become spiritual casualties because they could not find an answer. I want to give you an answer that I know is true.

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“Blessings In Disguise”
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Could it be that God wants to take us past shallow praise and worship and bring us into a deeper revelation of Him than we have ever known? Is it possible to come to a place where we see God not as just a giver of good gifts, but as the creator and sustainer of the universe who is worthy of all praise? Consider this:

Revelation 4:10-11 (CEV)

“At the same time the twenty-four elders knelt down before the one sitting on the throne. And as they worshiped the one who lives forever, they placed their crowns in front of the throne and said, 11 “Our Lord and God, you are worthy to receive glory, honor, and power....”

This is a glimpse into heaven where none have any prayers that need to be answered, nor are there any prayers that have just been answered. Yet, they kneel and worship for only one reason: They have seen the God of heaven and earth and this alone has caused them to fall down in worship and praise. There can be no other response.

This brings me back to the five precious souls I saw worshipping that Sunday in November. With all my heart I believe it was the trial they faced that forced them to seek a greater revelation of the God they serve. Once their eyes were opened more fully to who God was, their lives were forever changed and they became the passionate worshipers that I observed that Sunday. It was this kind of worship that gave them the strength to walk through the fire and come out victorious.

This is confirmed by 1 Peter 6-7.

1 Peter 1:6-7 (TPT)

“May the thought of this cause you to jump for joy, even though lately you’ve had to put up with the grief of many trials. 7 But these only reveal the sterling core of your faith, which is far more valuable than gold that perishes, for even gold is refined by fire. Your authentic faith will result in even more praise, glory, and honor when Jesus the Anointed One is revealed.”

These two verses are perhaps the most misunderstood verses in the entire Bible. It has been taught that the revelation spoken of here is an event that is going to happen in the future when Christ returns. Then we who have held true to our faith through many trials will receive praise, glory, and honor. In fact, many translations actually put it that way. The Good News Translation is a good example of this. It reads: “Then you will receive praise and glory and honor on the Day when Jesus Christ is revealed.” **TIME OUT!** The only one who should ever receive praise, honor, or glory is the Lord our God. I assure you, on the day Christ returns the only one receiving praise will be Him.

If this is true, then what exactly are these verses saying? These verses are actually saying that the trial of our faith is valuable because it pushes us to dig deeper into our faith and get a greater revelation of who our God is. This revelation produces a fresh new ability to worship our amazing God in the midst of our great trial.

The five people I have told you about would have never survived spiritually if they had just sat around waiting for the return of Jesus. They needed a greater revelation of Jesus right now! When they got it, their life was changed and they had what they needed to walk in victory. **Their great trial actually was their greatest blessing in disguise.**

What are you going through now? Do you feel as if you are about to be consumed by the fires of adversity? Do you feel as if you can’t go on any longer? I urge you to dig deep. Dig until you find what is at the core of your being. Dig until you find what you have deep inside you. Dig until you get a fresh revelation of who your God is. Dig until you see a reason to praise and worship the God you serve. He has not abandoned you. He has said He will never leave you or forsake you. Praise Him, for He is worthy of your praise. Worship Him, for He is worthy of your worship!

As you do you will come to know Him in a way that will carry you through anything you will ever face and your trial will prove to have been a blessing in disguise.

**AND THAT MY FRIENDS
IS THE TRUTH!**



A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



“EL ROI...THE GOD WHO SEES”

This month I want to help you with one of the issues of life so many struggle with: Where is God in my great moment of need? We all know what the Bible says

about God and His faithfulness. Yet too often what we thought we knew seems to evaporate at the time we need it most, and we find ourselves feeling alone and abandoned by God. How can we overcome this common flaw in our faith?

To find the answer, I want us to look at a story in the Bible of a woman who faced a life-and-death situation and came out victorious. You all know the story of Sarah and Hagar. Because of Sarah's hatred of her, Hagar (while pregnant) had to flee into the wilderness where she faced certain death. Then the Lord heard her cry for help and she was spared. Her response to this encounter is what I want to look at.

Genesis 16:13 (CSB)

“So she named the Lord who spoke to her: “You are El-Roi,” for she said, “In this place, have I actually seen the one who sees me?”

This is the first time in the Bible where someone called God “El-Roi”. In Hebrew it actually means, “The God (El) who sees (Roi)”. I need to point out

that there are 33 translations that all have this verse ending with a question mark. It indicates that Hagar found it hard to imagine that the creator of the universe (El Roi) had seen her desperate situation and heard her cry for help.

I totally relate to this. It's hard to comprehend that the God who holds this vast universe in the palm of His hand also sees you and I, and cares about what we are going through. This truth is something I have found so helpful when I am faced with a great need. The foundation stone I stand on must be the fact that I absolutely know that God sees what my situation is. For me, this is where my faith must start.

I had a situation like this two days before Thanksgiving. I was home alone and was very concerned because a huge snowstorm was moving into the area. My daughter was driving up from Denver; my husband and grandson were hunting in the mountains; and it was growing dark. Suddenly I got a call from my husband telling me that he was stranded two miles back in a very remote area and was attempting to hike out in extremely heavy snow. **Then the phone dropped the call!** I cannot begin to tell you the panic that swept over me. But then I remembered Hagar, and I reminded myself that my El Roi had His eye on my entire family. No matter where they were, He was watching over them. They were not alone. Once I got a grip on that wonderful truth, what followed seemed to flow quite naturally. The sense of panic left and I began to call out in faith believing that the God who sees would watch over my family.

"EL ROI...THE GOD WHO SEES" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Psalm 14:2 (ERV)

"The Lord looks down from heaven to see if there is anyone who is wise, anyone who looks to him for help."

I cried out for help and am thrilled to tell you that my family all arrived home safely. Two feet of snow fell that night and my husband was very sure his truck would stay in that remote place until spring. I reminded him that the place where his truck sat almost buried in snow was not so remote that God could not see it. I truly believed that God was going to work a miracle. The day after Thanksgiving that miracle happened. We were blessed by two men from the Big Thompson 4X4 Club who offered to attempt to recover his truck from the snow. As I write this, the truck is back home sitting in our garage. Truly, God saw our need.

The wonderful truth that there is a God who sees can be applied to every negative situation you will ever encounter. It brought Hagar through her struggle and it helped me remain strong and full of faith when my family was caught out in a terrible snow storm. But you can also apply this to sickness, marital problems, broken relationships, financial problems, or anything else you will ever face in life. In fact, there is nothing you will ever face where this great truth cannot be applied.

What are you going through right now? Do you feel alone and abandoned? Have the ones you thought you could depend on turned against you? Have you been falsely accused? I urge you, don't spend even one second focusing on these things, because if you do, you will begin to feel the need to defend yourself or lash out at those who have hurt you. Rather, keep reminding yourself of what you know is true: **There is a God who sees.**

This is where an intimate, faith-filled relationship with God begins. Yes, God rules over this entire planet. He sees the arrogance of man and laughs at it. He sets up kings and also brings kings down. But He is not so busy with these things that He forgets about you and I. The main thing to remember is that He really does see everything and He cares about everything we are going through.



He may not always answer our prayers when or in the way we think He should, but I am okay with that because I know He is a good God. I am okay with that as long as I know He is watching over me. I can trust Him!

I would like to end this article with a portion of scripture that gives us a true picture of how our wonderful God cares about us and watches over every detail of our lives.

Psalm 139:2-6 The Message (MSG)

"...I'm an open book to you; even from a distance, you know what I'm thinking.

"You know when I leave and when I get back; I'm never out of your sight.

"You know everything I'm going to say before I start the first sentence.

"I look behind me and you're there, then up ahead and you're there, too— your reassuring presence, coming and going.

"This is too much, too wonderful—I can't take it all in!"

He is El Roi, the God who sees.

P R O P H E C Y U P D A T E

“THE MIRACLES CONTINUE”

When we took groups to Israel, one of my favorite things was to listen to our elderly guide tell the stories of soldiers who had experienced miracles while fighting for the defense of Israel. He had fought in the 1948 War of Independence and had seen things that could not be explained any other way than as a miracle. Even though I had heard his stories many times, I always looked forward to hearing them again.

I recently ran across some articles that told of amazing things Israeli soldiers continue to experience yet today. It is encouraging and exciting, so I decided to share part of it with you. The first story happened back in 2009.

Rabbi Lazer Brody, a former IDF special-unit veteran, shared this story after hearing it from the father of the soldier to whom it happened. The IDF soldier was part of the Givati Brigade. His unit was tasked with cleaning out terrorists and weapons in and around Gaza City.

As they approached a suspected terrorist house, this battalion found themselves confronted by a woman dressed in black. The woman started yelling in Arabic, “Get out of here! It’s dangerous!” The soldiers assumed that she was trying to protect her family, and not wanting to harm innocents, their company commander advised them to move on to their next target.

Suddenly, the same woman in black appeared in front of them and again gave the danger warning. She had arrived so quickly that they assumed she must have used one of the terror tunnels set up by Hamas between houses. A soldier even yelled at her and told her to stop interfering with their mission.

The IDF troops then went to a third house and, lo and behold, the same woman appeared again. By now, all the soldiers froze in place realizing something otherworldly was happening.

The IDF soldiers then called the Golani Engineering force, whose job it is to blow up booby-trapped houses. The unit told them to very carefully check the three houses the mysterious woman had warned them about. Sure enough, all three houses were filled with explosives. Without the warning, many soldiers would have died.

Another more recent story is even more amazing. Most Israelis have come to rely on the Iron Dome to protect them from enemy missiles. The Iron Dome is a mobile all-weather air defense system designed to intercept and destroy short-range rockets and artillery shells fired at civilian areas. During Operation Cast Lead, a missile was shot into Israel from Gaza. The first Iron Dome interceptor was shot but missed the rocket. A second interceptor was shot and also missed, which is very unusual. There were only four seconds left until the missile would have hit a populated area in Tel Aviv, causing mass casualties.

The IDF commander shared, “Suddenly, the Iron Dome (which calculates wind speeds, among other things) showed a strong wind come from the East that sent the missile into the sea. We were all stunned. I stood up and shouted, ‘**There is a God!**’ I witnessed this miracle with my own eyes. It was not told or reported to me. I saw the hand of God send that missile into the sea.”

These are just two amazing accounts of miracles. There are many more which continue to fulfill Bible prophecy. Israel is the “apple of God’s eye” and He has promised to never abandon Her. Those who have sworn themselves to Her destruction have sealed their own fate, for God watches over His Word to perform it.

Psalm 121:4 The Passion Translation (TPT)

“He will never slumber nor sleep; He is the Guardian-God for his people, Israel.”

AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH