



HOW, LORD..... can I find renewed energy?

This was the message of our precious March 15th **DAILY DEVOTIONS Mustard Seed** online devotion message.... and that was the wicked Tuesday I had to report at 7:30 a.m. for a pic-line and plethora of not-too-comfortable radiologic exams in Bend, lasting some four hours.

It was like that Pastor's sermon that seems written... "Just for you? Speaks right to ya!" You know those. I was trying to make the Convention Manual deadlines, fill those last five vacancies (in my head, of course) and my tank seemed to be running on fumes that day.

And then Matthew 11:28 rang out, "Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest."

As we lay up our heavy loads and look to running the **Grace Race** to Eugene....I reflect heavily on these past weeks leading up to Holy Week. I and my soul were so ready for Easter! I know it's my age creeping up and around me, but between precious Soup Suppers, Sunday School lessons on the Last Words of Christ from the Cross, beginning and ending with "Father," compounded with the startling stings in the events leading up to Good Friday & the **bitter-sweet** visuals and **breath-taking** sequence of timing surrounding Christ's last moments on this Earth....how can one not count themselves among those so blessed by the gift and Promise...of rest from heavy loads, in the Resurrection? From our sins? To be Forgiven, not remembered?? all ye, who are heavy laden.....sigh..

Just Think? We shall run the race. We are today. And He will give us rest, Living Waters to quench our thirst, whenever our finish line is near, even at that finish line, giving us eternal rest.

But to question the question that day, **HOW, LORD..... can I find renewed energy?** Well, our Tuesday Adult Bible Study has been wading through Proverbs for weeks now...it is material in life to chew on and discuss, for sure. But my experience since the Advent of this New Year has been to take heart in the familiar Prov. 19:21, "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." This message **should be our renewed energy!!** Knowing that exactly how things turn/turned out is exactly the prevailing Lord's purpose.

Here we are already into April; four Spring Rallies have already taken place! And five will have occurred, likely by the time you receive this Hug. My prayers are with you all in fervent requests made known that they have been well-attended, abundant in anticipation, rewarding in fellowship, laced with Spring skies and new faces...as we extend our hands to our women of each congregation and make their presence known, to engage, encourage, equip and enjoy them in this special set-aside, semi-annual event. We know the energies and planning that went into them all too well...perhaps there were frustrations, last minute things gone awry(I love that word!). Oh well....the Lord is smiling on us every Mite(y) step of our way!! And I look forward to hearing of the attendance, success, & highlight, please. **

Looking then, to *Isaiah 55:8-9*, He whispers, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

And I wish to close now, choosing brevity, this promising Spring sunny day, moving on in *Isaiah* to v. 12: For ye shall go out with *JOY*, and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field clap their hands. All this will surely apply as we fine-tune "The Grace Race" Convention coming up in just eight weeks! See you there.

With *JOY* . . . I remain, Yours in service to the Heavenly Father....*Pat Reck, Leader Development*

**** If each Zone President** would just hit reply to this to me and let me know: how many attended your Rally? any new officers elected /e-mails please, for my "Hug Mailbox, "and one event that was hugely popular that day?

