



204 Dix Road - Jefferson City, MO 65109

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. . . Heart to Heart . . .

We like to be in control of situations! Look at how we try to dominate others or control outcomes. When we aren't in control, we begin to fear, become anxious and fretful. News comes into our homes of decisions made by court judges, or decisions made by our government heads. It leaves us wondering who is in control of anything, and our fears rise again.

God taught Israel a powerful lesson of who is in control, despite what things may look like or sound like. The wilderness wanderings were to destroy the self-sufficiency of His people. God used the wilderness to expose their vulnerability and helplessness, showing nothing depended on them but Him; a wilderness wandering without food and water, basic essentials to man's existence. They experienced the hot days and cold nights. They grumbled and complained, desiring to return to captivity to find food, shelter and clothing provided by their captors. Their fears drove them to desiring captivity over God! God would not allow that, feeding them from heaven, watering them from a rock and providing every single need in life. His words rang out loud and clear as to why they couldn't see or understand. The God of all mankind kept them from seeing and understanding, showing He was in control. "Yet to this day the Lord has not given you a heart to know, nor eyes to see, nor ears to hear. I have led you for forty years in the wilderness; your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandal has not worn out on your foot." (Deut. 29:4-5)

What about us? Jesus addresses us in the same way wondering why we are so anxious and fretting about our lives? We want control! We want to design outcomes and when we can't, we fear. We have little sense of the realities of God. Our weaknesses produce fears. Our skills are what we depend on. No wonder our faith never seems to grow. God is still the same God who took His people through the wilderness and met their needs when all was helpless. Christ and God haven't been dethroned! Has He prevented us from seeing and understanding?

Instead of fears, we need to learn to trust our God. Instead of trying to control situations, we need to rest in God knowing He is our strength and dependency. It takes away fears and anxiety! "Cease striving and know that I am God." (Psa. 46:10) When is the last time you rested in the Lord? Think about it!!!

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