
SOFD PRAYER PARTNER LETTER

FEBRUARY 2021

Dear Prayer Partner,

Isaiah 41:8-9
But thou, Israel, art my servant,
Jacob whom I have chosen,
the seed of Abraham my friend.
Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth,
and called thee from the chief men thereof,
and said unto thee, Thou art my servant;
I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away.

“And I believe, O, I believe

What You say of me.” -Lauren Daigle (from the song, “You Say”)

Sitting on a bunk in Lake County Jail, I said, “So, is this it? Am I done serving You? Will I grow old in obscurity, and never be able to do anything meaningful for You?” One morning, a few days later, The Holy Spirit said, “Read in Isaiah.” I admit that the first thing that went through my head was, “Your children shall be dashed against the stones. Your homes and your villages shall be destroyed by the enemy. Your young men shall be killed by the sword or taken into captivity.” When I opened the book of Isaiah, these were the verses I turned to.

I have chosen you, and not cast you away!

That is what God says about you. Wherever you sit right now, whether it is a living room, or a cell, you have been chosen and you will not be cast away!

Romans 11:29
For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

You see, God saw your every day before he ever created the world. You have done nothing that surprised God. He knew where you would sit this very moment before he ever said, “Light be.” I had to accept the fact that even my failure was written into the plan. “But I've hurt people!” How do you justify that? All I can say is, “The short answer is ‘you don't.’” There are things that we simply will not

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Psalm 32:7

understand until that which is perfect is come¹. I know that I could not be doing what I am doing right now without having gone through the last six years. Prison. God planned for me to be where I am right now.

He had to teach me, while I was in prison, not to divide my life into “prison, and non-prison.”

Genesis 13:14-15

*And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, **Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. [emphasis added]***

Life belongs to him.

He breathes it into my nostrils.

Then I become a living soul.

All in his plan. That I am here is grace. God extends to you and me undeserved favor. Breath. Health. Prosperity. Blessing.

What about the people I hurt? Did they receive grace? Why did he let me hurt them?

Romans 8:26-32

*Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. **And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?*

We frequently quote verse 28, but look at the whole picture. All of that is included. Again, it is faith. The people who have been hurt, the same as the people who did the hurting, have access to that Holy Spirit who prays for us. They have a God who makes everything - yes everything! - work for their good. And look how he ends that, if God would give his own son to buy our redemption, if he preplanned all of that, then he will give us everything. All things.

Anyone who will simply trust God to work out the details of his life that he does not understand, will see him take everything and make it good. So, trust him with your hurt, and trust him with the people you have hurt. Everyone has hurt someone. Trust him.

So, wherever you are today, it is on the path to where he needs you to be. So just go! Let him decide.

Can you do that?

Many times, in the last six years I have had to say, “I **choose** to trust God! I **choose** to give God the benefit of the doubt. He knows. I don’t.”

Faith is not a confident feeling!

Faith is a choice. “I **believe.**”

So, you are not cast away. You are loved. And the father who loves you has complete confidence that you will be all he expected.

¹ 1 Corinthians 13:10

Philippians 1:6

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

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What You say of me.” -Lauren Daigle (from the song, “You Say”)

So, stop looking at the place where you are, and begin to see where he is taking you. Because the promise belongs to you too.²

“Wherever you look, it belongs to you, you own it!” So, it does not matter where God takes you, it is yours.

“Holy Spirit, where are we going today?” If you trust Him, He will show you.

John 16:12-13

*“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and **he will declare to you the things that are to come.**”*

Maybe I am not the only one who needed to hear that ...

God bless you all!

John Kerr Isaiah 50:7, 42:6,7

² Galatians 3: 29