

This Is The Day the Lord Has Made...SPLASH!

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By John Tyler

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Last Saturday morning I jumped from the bed, excited about the day.

I made the bed quickly and threw my hands toward the ceiling as I walked to the bedroom door.

"Lord," I declared, "I just want to thank you that I'm a child of the most high God this morning! This is the day the Lord has made, and I will rejoice and be glad..."

SPLASH!

In mid-sentence, I had thrown open the door to my bedroom and stepped into a pool of water covering my living room carpet.

"..and be glad in it, Lord," I finished, shaking my head.

The hot water heater had apparently gone out, and running water had been covering an entire bedroom and the living room...all night long.

I would have plenty of time to rejoice in the Lord as I vacuumed water and tore out carpet.

"I will bless the Lord at all times," wrote David in the 34th Psalm. "His praise shall continually be in my mouth."

I wonder if he wrote those words while fixing a flat tire on the freeway, or picking up a treat the dog left on the floor in the kitchen? David was human, wasn't he? Could he really expect us to maintain an attitude of praise at all times?

I wrestled with God on this one. I found myself fighting to stay "happy."

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"Okay, Lord," I reasoned, "In Romans 8:28, you said that in all things you work for the good of those who love you and are called according to your purpose. I'm going to give you the opportunity to prove yourself this morning.

"Please show me how this inconvenient, uncomfortable, potentially expensive situation is going to work out for my good."

Shortly thereafter, there was a knock on my door.

It was Jose, the water heater repair guy.

"It looks like you're having a rough day," he said, taking a look at the water heater connections.

"Yes," I said, trying to remain positive. "But, it's just a little water. It could be worse."

"Oh yeah, it could," Jose replied, walking out to his truck to retrieve tools.

His tone gave me the impression that he had seen much, much worse. When he returned, I asked him what he meant.

"I lost 30 years of what I had worked to build during Tropical Storm Allison three years ago," he said. "I had five feet of water in my home. Everything was destroyed."

I figured this was probably the point where I needed to start listening for the Lord...

He went on to say that his neighbor had put her first-born baby in her car trying to escape the rapidly rising waters, and found the automobile and her baby underwater after running back into the house to grab a few items to save.

"She's still a wreck emotionally," Jose said. "I don't think she'll ever get over it. And, my wife and kids just finished putting our place back together, finally."

I looked down at my replaceable wet carpet and realized, like usual, God had shown up to teach me a valuable lesson.

Folks, our God is good all the time. We are abundantly blessed and have so much to be thankful for in every situation. He is just as worthy of our praise when a situation seems to turn sour as he is when everything is rosy.

I asked Jose what part of town he lived in, and he indicated it was in a neighborhood very close to my church.

"I spent the night in your church sanctuary, you all gave us food, a place to stay, shots for the kids," he said. "You all were wonderful."

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I actually hadn't even joined my church when Tropical Storm Allison hit Houston in June, 2001. Twenty-one people lost their lives, and scores of Houstonians lost their homes and all their possessions.

I would spend the remainder of that Saturday vacuuming wet carpet, thanking Jesus that I was not one of them.

Being blessed is a matter of perspective, isn't it? Think about places in the world where the residents would see any one of us as living like a king.

Sometimes, we just need a little reminder of how good we have it.

Did you get out of bed this morning? Do you have eyes that allow you to read this page? Do you have a place to sleep tonight, and food to eat before you go to bed? Do you have family and friends that love you?

Is your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life?

If you can answer "yes" to any of the above questions, it sounds like someone is abundantly blessed by God!

Let's all remember to maintain that attitude of praise and gratitude. I don't know your situation or the challenges you face today, but I bet you could find something to thank him for right now.

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Be Exalted

By Joyce C. Lock

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Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.

The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted.

Be thou exalted, LORD, in thine own strength: so will we sing and praise thy power.

The princes of the people are gathered together, even the people of the God of Abraham: for the shields of the earth belong unto God: he is greatly exalted.

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Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; let thy glory be above all the earth. In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted. For thou art the glory of their strength: and in thy favour our horn shall be exalted.

For thou, LORD, art high above all the earth: thou art exalted far above all gods.

Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: and thy glory above all the earth.

The right hand of the LORD is exalted: the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly.

He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour. By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.

The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. But the LORD of Hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness. And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted.

And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be exalted.

And all the trees of the field shall know that I the LORD have brought down the high tree, have exalted the low tree, have dried up the green tree, and have made the dry tree to flourish: I the LORD have brought down the high tree, have exalted the low tree, have dried up the green tree, and have made

the dry tree to flourish: I the LORD have spoken and have done it.

But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

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Joyce C. Lock is a published author, poet, and columnist. In addition, she founded and maintains the e-mail ministries "Heavenly Inspirations" <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HeavenlyInspirations/> and "Share a Smile" <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/smilesharing/>. Joyce's writings encourage us in our relationship with God and each other.



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