



The Journey of the Monarch Butterfly...

Migratory Monarch butterflies travel approximately 74 miles per day, gliding in the thrust of ascending warm-air currents. With this flying technique, Monarchs only need to flap their wings when they run out of wind or when they need to change their path. This way, they achieve to save enough energy to complete their long trip.

After an amazing 3100-mile trip, the Monarchs finally arrive at the five different sanctuaries located in Mexico, clustering on the oyamel tree trunks and getting ready to be a part of half of the colony that will endure the winter and predators. By mid-February when temperatures rise and days become longer, the Monarch starts its mating ritual. Once females have lain over 400 eggs each on the fine leaves of the asclepias, they begin their search for flowers to get their nectar and thus gather the necessary energy for the trip back home. By mid-March, copious colonies of Monarch Butterflies can be seen flapping their wings as they wait for an ascending air current to propel them...and so the journey back home starts. Once back in US territories, that last generation dies and the trip continues as a relay race while short-life descendants fly up north in several generations. Amazing as it is, those Monarchs who will travel back to the sanctuaries in Mexico next winter, have never been there before. It was their great grandparents who undertook the courageous trip the year before; next year they will have no problem returning to the same place where its ancestors hibernated. This is the unbelievable journey of an insect that weighs less than a gram, but whose beauty and importance as a pollination agent balances the ecological system. Do not miss the chance to be a part of this fascinating experience when you visit Mexico.



Daylight Saving Time - March 8
Spring is on its way...



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GOD Sings Songs Over You!

Photo by Archie Moody by Barbara Carmack

"For the LORD your GOD is living among you. . . He will take delight in you with gladness. With His Love, He will calm all your fears. He will exult over you with joyful songs!" - Zephaniah 3:17

Some people think of GOD as a kind of celestial traffic cop, lying in wait for them to mess up. Others envision Him as a critical teacher Who loves to hand out bad grades. But in this passage, the prophet Zephaniah gives you a completely different picture of GOD. Zephaniah begins by reminding you that GOD is living among and in you, not somewhere far away in the sky. He asserts three powerful positive images of how GOD loves you:

- 1) First, GOD takes delight in you. He enjoys you the way a loving grandfather delights in his grandchildren.
- 2) Second, GOD calms your fears. The Apostle John says that love is the opposite of fear...and that GOD loves you perfectly (1 John 4:18). And look how much GOD loves you in the following:
- 3) Third, GOD exults over you "...with joyful songs!" The literal Hebrew meaning of "exults" is to dance and spin around. So you didn't think that GOD dances? He's got the whole universe as His dance floor! What a glorious image! Picture it whenever you feel GOD is critical or distant. The Apostle John was such a lover, and he expresses himself so vividly in I John 3:19-20: **"By this we know that we are of the truth, and shall reassure our hearts before Him. For if our heart condemns us, GOD is greater than our heart and knows everything".** Those two verses have to be read together....What does that mean **"If our heart condemns us, GOD is greater than our heart"?** The PASSION Translation: **"Whenever our hearts make us feel guilty and remind us of our failures, we know that GOD is much greater and more merciful than our conscience, and He knows everything there is to know about us. And when our hearts don't condemn us, we have a bold freedom to speak face to face with GOD."**

What is John saying here? He's saying that it's not GOD Who is condemning you; it is your own carnal mind and fleshly soul that has not been brought under the perfect spirit that He gave you when you became a Believer. John is saying that if you have lived your life and, because of the love of Christ 1) you have loved your brothers and sisters, with all their strange quirks and behaviors, and 2) you have endeavored to be generous toward them, giving them your time and love, then you know GOD's Love as He has loved you. GOD assures you in your heart that you are His because you truly love!

How can you help but feel cherished by a GOD Who sings for you? Ask Yourself: Do I struggle at times with seeing GOD as the *"cop in the sky"* or the critical teacher? What are some other ways I envision Him? Is it hard for me to imagine GOD delighting in me or singing songs over me? What makes this difficult for me to comprehend?

Ask GOD; He wants to speak and fellowship with you face to face... *Father, forgive me for the negative images I've had of You - and my fear that I didn't bring Joy to YOU. Help me today to realize You are with me, and You want to be with me...delighting in me and singing over me!*

So, rejoice, for your life is hidden in Christ JESUS, your LORD!

"Give Your Carnal Mind A Decent Burial!"



Keeping America Great!

It's so important, in this day and age that you ask GOD about things on which you have been making decisions. Take for instance, subscriptions to magazines. Now in the 50's during the great healing services of Oral Roberts and the dynamic soul-winning of Billy Graham, you could count on people being on course for the truth...but not anymore. Christianity Today, founded by Billy Graham, was printed for the sole purpose of saving souls and bringing them closer to GOD...but not today. Christianity Today has become a very liberal magazine, intent on disparaging anyone with conservative and godly principles. In an article written in December of 2019, Christianity Today wrote that Trump should be removed from office and, what's worse, they said that Billy Graham endorsed this view. Well, Franklin Graham, Billy's son says, "My father knew Trump and believed in him and voted for him. He believed Donald J. Trump was the man for this hour in history for our nation." Graham's comments came just hours after the "evangelical" magazine called for Trump's removal. The editor, Mark Galli, said, "None of the president's positives can balance the moral and political danger we face under a leader of such 'grossly immoral character'." THANK YOU for praying for our president...Billy Graham was right, he is the man for this hour in history for our nation. He attained His position, by GOD, for such a time as this!



Sneaking into a country does not make you an immigrant, just as breaking into a house doesn't make you a homeowner!

**"I leave My Gift of Peace with you...
not the kind of fragile peace given by the
world, but My Perfect Peace; so don't yield
to fear...instead be courageous!"**

(John 14:27—THE PASSION)

Being Family...

"I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of GOD; I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His Blood! Joint heir with JESUS as we travel this sod...for I'm part of the family, the family of GOD!" Bill & Gloria Gaither



"We hafta hold hands while we say grace so nobody gets a head start eating. Right, Mommy?"

FRIENDS...

- F - Friends fight for you
- R - Respect you
- I - Include you
- E - Encourage you
- D - Deserve you
- S - Stand for you

(submitted by Archie Moody)

Your best friend is JESUS:

"I no longer call you servants, because a master does not confide in his servants. But I call you My most intimate friends, for I reveal to you everything that I've heard from My Father."

(John 15:15 - The Passion)

"If You have a pulse, You have a purpose!" Shari Rupp

SO YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT IT TOUGH...

Patrick was born in Britain in 386 A.D. of wealthy parents, but at the age of 16, he was abducted from his village and thrown onto a slave ship headed for Ireland. He felt that GOD somehow was punishing him saying, "We deserve what we get." Patrick was sold to a chieftain named Milchu. He spent six years tending his master's flocks and recounts his time as a slave in his memoir entitled *The Confession* (sounds like Joseph, doesn't it?). He says, "I prayed a hundred times a day and almost as much at night." Through that experience of prayer and trial, Patrick came to know another GOD - GOD the Father, Who was his Protector. He came to know JESUS Christ in those sufferings, and as he came to be united with Christ, he found his identity with Christ in the Holy Spirit. One night during a time of prayer and fasting, Patrick wrote: "I heard in my sleep a voice saying to me: 'Soon you will go to your own country.'" And that voice was from GOD, for Patrick escaped and traveled 200 miles cross country to the west coast, eventually returning to his home and family in Britain.



As his experience of GOD's Grace and provision solidified his Faith, he began to study for the ministry. During his time of study and prayer, he had a dream, hearing a voice calling to him, "Holy boy, please return to us; we need you." Could he return to Ireland and minister to the same people who had enslaved him? Once again, he turned to GOD in prayer. He received the answer in a dream; he heard a voice coming from inside of him which he realized was the voice of the Spirit of GOD praying for him. Patrick knew he had to go and convinced his church that he was called to be a missionary to Ireland. He set sail in a small ship, which landed at the mouth of the Slaney River. When Patrick set foot on the shore, a new era dawned on this island. What had been before an Ireland of tribalism, of war, of suspicion...an Ireland of violence and death, believing in many gods - the sky, the earth and water, etc. - through Patrick's efforts and lots of prayer, became an island that changed its heart to believe in one GOD.

Patrick's poem of faith and trust in GOD, "The Breastplate": "Christ be within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ inquired, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger." As you celebrate St. Patrick's Day, remember that he was a man devoted to GOD!



Home Of Refuge

Saving the Lost...Loving the Unlovable

Maria and Ruth were regularly beaten by their violent father with threats that he would kill them. What a blessing for us when we cannot only pray for these precious sisters, but invite them into the Home of Refuge home that will be a shelter for them and a safe place from fear. They help in the home, maintaining their room, and having a cheerful countenance. When Tony told them that they could stay, they both began clapping their hands with Joy! Just think if you thought that anytime during the day you would be beaten or die at the hands of a parent. I hope you know that it is your giving that makes it possible for us to bring such Joy and offer such refuge! We do have needs but GOD is supplying our need through your giving. Our laundry room is coming together and we praise GOD that we won't have to hang our clothes outside with the threat of rain looming over our heads.

We pray that Holy Spirit will touch your hearts to let you realize that you are a BIG part of



what's going on in Peru, and that you are realizing the calling that JESUS gave His disciples in Matthew 28:19, **"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit."** May we go forth making disciples!

Tony and Rosa are doing their part in making disciples... are you doing your part? **Working Together For the Kingdom in PERU, Tony and Rosa**

