

Hot or Cold

As I write this it is a cold rainy day. So, I'll ask. What is your temperature? Are you hot? Are you cold? The real question is are you hot on fire for Jesus? Or are you cold as though he were a long-lost love? But the Bible says that if you are Lukewarm, that's even worse than out right cold.

I have to tell you, when I write, I can sound like I am where I need to be. Some days I am. But life has a way of distracting me, so I get pulled away from the deep prayers. Pleading and interceding for those I love, and other prayer needs that I hear about. James 5:16 "The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

I know prayer works. I've seen too much that cannot be coincidence! I do not believe in luck or coincidence. There are days when I realize that I am carrying my problems on my back instead of putting them on Jesus. Why is my first instinct often to start to get upset and phone a friend... that friend should always be Jesus first. I mean, it's comforting to have a friend console you, but Jesus is the one with the power. Do we forget that He is the one who closed the mouths of the hungry lions for Daniel? He gave a young David the strength and ability to bring down Goliath. He raised Lazarus. He turned water into wine. Is there anything He cannot do? Is there anything He would not do for His children? But what about when the answers are not what we hoped for? Do we run far away from Him in anger? Do we decide if He can't or won't help us, then what good is He?

Of course not! He is the ultimate comforter. This is the time to lean in. Get closer to Him. He isn't going anywhere. If you don't feel as close to Him as you once were, it's not because He moved, sometimes we just quietly drift away. We get so dragged down by everyday life we pray less and less. We read the Bible less and less. When suddenly we realize we are far from where we should be. This is an expensive problem. Before you know it, it can cost you much. I have watched people come to Christ. On fire for the Lord. But if their roots are not deep enough, the drought will weaken the roots, the heavy rains I'll wash them away. But if we are strong in the Lord, he will hold us with His righteous right hand. Even though the waters rush over us, we will not let us be swept away.

Isaiah 41:10 fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Jeremiah 17:7-8 "Blessed *is* the man who trusts in the LORD,
And whose hope is the LORD. ⁸ For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters,
Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes;
But its leaf will be green And will not be anxious in the year of drought,
Nor will cease from yielding fruit."

Fear and Anxiety! Do you ever have any? It's hard not to at some point. But I used to be riddled with anxiety. I was saved, I loved the Lord, but learning to lean on Him was not that easy. Trust doesn't come easy to me. So just turning over every little problem to a being I have never seen That can be tough. Yet, I find, I have no control over anything. I personally am not able to change many situations. I am not able to change someone's mind. I cannot make someone well. I cannot eliminate suffering or hunger. But I have found the one who can. Just think, I don't have to lift a finger. I just lift my eyes to the Lord, where my strength comes from. Prone to wander, Lord I feel it Prone to leave the God I love. AMEN

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