

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.*

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

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Loneliness - Anxious Longing of Creation

When I used to travel a lot, I spent many hours sitting in airports with hundreds, even thousands, of people doing likewise. In spite of all these people surrounding me, I always felt lonely. I felt as if I were all alone in the midst of a sea of people. I wasn't depressed either. Actually, I rather enjoyed it. At times, I even pictured the Lord and me all alone in these crowds. We would walk together through them as if there was only the two of us, intertwined together, braided and folded together as one. So, for me, loneliness is not necessarily a negative or depressing feeling. There are times when it feels right.

I realize that there are some who say we cannot trust our emotions. You know: "You are not to be led by your emotions." Really, who says? Is God devoid of emotion? Where do you think emotions came from in the first place? Can you say, "Creator"? I recognize that we need objective truth, but our experiences and even our emotions somehow must define and explain these truths and make them real to us.

When I read the epistles of Paul, the beloved striving apostle, I see and hear a whole slew of emotions in the midst of great conflict and suffering. Surely, he knew loneliness as he bobbed up and down in the sea, probably wondering where God was in the midst of all of it. Yet, Paul is the one who reminds us that ***love never fails*** (1 Corinthians 13:8). Why? ***God is love*** (1 John 4:8, 16), and God cannot, does not, and will not fail. He must and He does and He will remain true to His very essence, which is love.

Some would say that you are not to get mad at God, especially don't cuss at Him when you are really upset over your life or your perception of God in the midst of some pretty nasty stuff. Well, I have news for you if you think along this line; I have known believers that have gotten so mad at God that they cursed Him out. Strange, but God did not destroy them on the spot. Instead, it seems that He simply listened and then loved them through their difficult time until gold was produced in their lives, and, by the way, they were given revelation of God's plan for all mankind, something that so many mainline believers so rigidly reject. They discovered that God truly is love, and His love will not let any of His creation go.

Well, this is sort of an introduction to what is on my heart. I wasn't sure if I should pass this on until this morning when the Lord told me that there is someone out there in the 7 billion on this planet to whom He is sending this. So, here goes.

On October 2, 2014, my wife and I returned home from a meeting with some brethren. The time was better than usual as some opened up their hearts to the group. However, when we got home that night, I had this same feeling of loneliness come upon me that I have experienced over the years. I shared it with my wife and she had the same feelings. On October 3, 2014, as I sat quietly before the Lord, I felt led to open my journal and write out the thoughts that began to pour forth from my mind or, I should say, my heart. This is what I wrote:

Why do I feel so lonely so often? I have gone through life with this loneliness. Why? Perhaps, the universe is lonely. As I sit here pondering, it comes to me. Yes, the universe is lonely. It must be. All that great expanse is lonely as if it is longing for something; something is missing. The universe can feel it. It is lonely to have that void filled that comes from loneliness. Filled by what? Filled with what? God is love; surely love fills the universe. Perhaps it does, but is it fulfilled love? Is the love of the universe complete? Is it pining for something to express this love, to feel this love, to receive this love, to be filled with this love in its fullest manifestation?

Is this what we all long for? Do we all feel this void? A void that says we are incomplete; we aren't done yet; we aren't fulfilled yet.

All creation is yet in the womb of God. We haven't been birthed yet. We are still in gestation – development. Love knows us for love formed us, and love has kept us and is developing us. But, we are still in the womb. There is darkness in the womb – a sense we haven't come into the light. It is lonely in here, lonely with a longing to be birthed into all that we are meant to be, a longing to be complete, a longing to have this gnawing void filled.

Yes, the universe is lonely, and so am I. I wait with the same longing. But, what is it? Yes, here is the answer.

For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? (Romans 8:19-24 NASB)

I finished writing this at 8.35 am. The Lord often speaks to me through numbers, so I caught the connection right away. The number **8** signifies *new birth, new beginning*, and the number **35** signifies *hope*. Hope for it; it is coming! Yes, it is true. **But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.**

You might say: "Ah, but we are complete in Christ; our lives are now hidden with Christ in God. We are in the Son of His love." Yes, so true; but this is technical truth, objective to its core. We can hold to it, for this is as God sees it. He sees the end from the beginning. He sees all and knows all, and He rejoices in His creation and in His people, His very children. But, we have not caught up to this truth. We are pressing on toward it, to its manifestation in us and through us. Our subjective experience has not caught up to the objective truth. We have not caught up to God yet. But we are pressing on toward the goal.

Although we have the Body of Christ and we need one another, our journey with the Lord is still a personal journey with Him and it is often lonely, as if we are the only one walking this path. This is as it should be, for the Father and His Son have come to make home (abode) in us – in you and in me and in all of us. We are alone to discover God and His Son in us (you and me) and us (you and me) in them. **God makes a home for the lonely** (Psalms 68:6). Yes, He sets up shop, so to speak, in the lonely.

The Lord Jesus often went away from the crowds to be alone, but even in His most lonely hour, He said: **"Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me"** (John 16:32 NASB).

Does your heart know that the Father is always with you; never leaving you no matter what you think, feel, or experience? In times of loneliness, simply fall into His loving arms and rest in His love, allowing Him to love you.

As for me, I am rejoicing in my times of loneliness, for I feel a connection to God's entire creation that is groaning and longing to be set free from its slavery to corruption. We are all in the womb of God, and He is readying us to come through the birth canal very soon to come into the full light of His glory as we put off mortality and put on immortality in the image of His Beloved Son. This is our inheritance – the redemption of our body. We are being called into sonship; sons fully matured that can and will reign with Christ for a thousand years. Let us rejoice, for this temporary void of loneliness will be filled up to fullness with the life of the Beloved, **so we shall always be with the Lord!**

For *All Creation in the Womb of God*, see link: <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc/tuc587.pdf>