

ALABAMA SUPPLEMENT



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GRAND CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The Lord replied, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."
(Exodus 33:14, NIV)

The Israelites leaving the land of Egypt certainly had good reason for fear and worry as they departed into the wilderness of Sinai. What would they eat? Was there water? Would the army of Egypt pursue them there to destroy them? Were people living there who would become their enemies? Why was God allowing Moses to guide them into this desolate region?

Brethren and Companions, it is difficult at times to realize that peace and comfort are always near to us in the divine presence of God. But surely it is so. God has created us for His own and will never forsake us or give up on us because we put our trust in Him and we love Him with all our heart, and mind, and soul, and strength.

As the prophet Isaiah has said, "*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*" (Isaiah 26:3, KJV) The highest goodness of God is manifest in His creation, of which we are a part, and we need only to relax in this goodness, where we shall know perfect peace and take comfort in the fact that all is well.

George Marshall, Jr., PGHP
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FORGIVENESS

Forgive people in your life, even those who are not sorry for their actions.

Holding onto anger only hurts you, not them.

Forgiveness

Anyone can hold a grudge, but it takes a person with character to forgive.

When you forgive, you release yourself from a painful burden.

Forgiveness doesn't mean what happened was OK, and it doesn't mean that person should still be welcome in your life.

It just means you have made peace with the pain, and are ready to let it go.

-- Authors Unknown

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THE CRACKED POT

A Water Bearer in India had two large pots; each hung on each end of a pole, which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, and while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his master's house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do. After two years of what perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the Water Bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you."

"Why?" asked the bearer. "What are you ashamed of?" "I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your master's house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said.

The Water Bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot, and in his compassion he said, "As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path."

Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it some. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load, and so again it apologized to the bearer for its failure.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of your path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master's table. Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house."

Each of us has our own unique flaws; we're all cracked pots, but if we will allow it, the Lord will use our flaws to grace His Father's table. In God's economy, nothing goes to waste.

So as we seek ways to minister together, and as God calls you to the tasks He has appointed for you, don't be afraid of your flaws. Acknowledge them, and allow Him to take advantage of them, and you, too, can be the cause of beauty in His pathway. Go out boldly, knowing that in OUR weakness we find HIS strength, and that "In Him every one of God's promises is a YES."

-- Author Unknown

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