

His word is in my
heart like a fire
(Jeremiah 20:9)



THE MAN ON THE VERANDAH



It's still early in the morning, with a mid-summer sun already beaming rays of heat. It's one of those days when you start early & leave early. Bob is dressed in his overalls & working boots, which is his customary working gear most days. Although this day is no exception, Bob somehow envisions that he may sit around a little longer, following his early morning devotions. An old faded armchair with a spring or so missing is still a comfortable seat on the wooden verandah. A mug of tea sits beside him.

As he sips & contemplates the day's activities, there comes the buzz of a blowfly & you know that there is heat ahead. Just as Bob brushes away the fly, the sound of a distant freight train is heard thundering along its steel pathway, towards a distant destination. As Bob looks up & listens, another train follows, but this train is filled with happy laughing voices. They have a destination & a destiny to fulfill. No one else is present in the house this day except Bob. But no, there is someone else present! Unable to move, Bob is slightly overcome as a mist appears before his eyes. Nothing else seems to matter.

Then quietly a still small voice of unmistakable identity is heard; "Why do you ponder all these things, when I have promised to sustain you in all your ways & to guide you in all Truth? Surely I AM more than enough & those around you will see the glory of My handiwork." The buzz of the fly grew stronger & came nearer, but it was not a problem. At this moment just a slight breeze blew across the verandah, & the blowfly was no more. "Oh you of little faith, even the hairs of your head are numbered & I see every sparrow that falls, so what is Beelzebub to ME?" The mist grew stronger until Bob could no longer perceive the things of this world for they were growing strangely dim. Bob knew there was much to do on the farm, but unfortunately the labourers were few & the fields were ready for harvesting. The voice went on; "Seek first My Kingdom & all these other things will be added to you.

You are My child - will I let you down?" Bob quietly shuffled his boots as he contemplated what the Master was saying. He finished his mug of tea, now almost cold. But this didn't matter as the Master was drawing him closer. There was that low-drone of silence in the ears like the sound of the sea at night when there is complete silence. At this moment Bob quietly slipped into a kind of twilight zone. It seemed like he momentarily left his body as the Lord was now speaking very personally & directly. "It seems like your life has slipped by, & yet you know that there is still much to do in the vineyard."

Bob had been offered a price for the sale of the farm, but could not give an answer until he was absolutely sure what the Lord wanted him to do & where to go. Without realizing it, Bob had been sitting on the verandah most of the morning, & now as he opened his eyes & looked out there were storm clouds appearing in the distance. Well, thought Bob, "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge & my fortress; my God, in Him will I trust." As he looked at the storm clouds, he could see as an experienced farmer, that there was not enough puff in them. Battles are won, but the war continues.

As Bob was on his own this day, & the hot sun was now directly overhead, he headed for the kitchen to make another drink & prepare some lunch. He turned on the radio to hear the latest news. Apart from the crackle behind the announcer's voice, came the news that the defeated party in the recent elections would try & analyse the reasons for their overall loss in the electorate. Bob spoke to the radio, saying "They will never know." The secret weapon of prayer, heard by Almighty God, for righteousness & holiness to be returned & displayed in the Great Southland of the Holy Spirit had been answered. But we don't stop there!

The battering ram of the Holy Spirit has broken down the doors & they will remain open as long as we, the Body of Christ, will remain vigilant. The upsurge in prayer & spiritual warfare is taking effect against those forces that would oppose God's purposes in this nation. Oh Hallelujah!! Bob was excited! I will hold back forces of evil until My Church is fully equipped & ready. You have mostly been in playschool, but you are to graduate & be 'Sent Out'. (1) Be prepared for what I am about to do. Eat in haste (2) and be alert and prepared because those that have a will (3) to work I can rely upon. I will use the lapped (4) ones although they be fewer in number.

Just then the old flywire back door was flung back on its springs & in burst Bob's wife. "You'll never guess Bob - we've been selected to head up an Evangelistic Team from our Church to outreach some of the 10/40 window nations. Not only will we be preaching, but we will be teaching on Prayer, just as we have prayed. Your Will be done on earth (the Great Southland) as it is in Heaven so that those whom we teach will be able to pray for their own nation. Bob, in addition, your farming skills will come into good advantage for the under-developed countries we will visit." Bob was excited, but immediately thought, who would look after the farm? "I have already anticipated that Bob, & have arranged for Steve, your brother, & his wife to move in & take over in our absence. He's agreeable if you are, as he is presently out of work. In fact they are coming for dinner tonight!" The night was one of great rejoicing & celebrations. Victories are won on the knees & sometimes the nights are long, but the sweet smell of a new day always dawns upon us.

(1)....Romans 10:15

(2)....Exodus 12:11

(3)....Nehemiah 4:6

(4)....Judges 7:7

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