

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." Hebrews 12:1



You can't walk in mud and keep your shoes clean. What is it that muddies our thoughts distracting us away from Father Voice? What so demands our attention and focus we forget the purpose of our very existence? Chores? Urgencies? Illness? Necessity? In short, daily life distracts us from the Peace And Joy only found in the presence of God *"in us the Hope of Glory."* Days of quiet herding, tent living, and breathtaking landscapes have morphed into noisy congested traffic, high-rise apartments, and a view of your neighbor's windows. Instead of time to sit quietly and watch over grazing herds or gather at day's end for a family meal, we scurry about in a frazzle chasing income and eating fast food alone. The world does not accommodate the contemplation of creation nor the meditation of God's Word. Our landscapes have withered to grey roads and our focus has shifted to white lines and stop lights. We no longer breathe fresh unfiltered atmosphere, but live in air conditioned boxes. The aroma of blossoms has to be purchased in a can and fresh food is almost non-existent. When is the last time you picked a ripe fruit from a tree or a cucumber from your garden? God's Creation has been replaced by audio/video, cities, and super markets. It is no wonder that the younger generation has little or no respect for spiritual things. There is absolutely nothing before their eyes but wickedness! Without the discipline of faith, sin slithers up from every side, demanding our constant attention. It barks at us from TV's and blares at us from radios and clamors at us from cell phones and I-pods! Home computers have to be electronically fenced and gated to prevent the slimy ooze of evil from infiltrating our family. Praise God that *"where sin abounded, grace did much more abound!"* Mercy and Grace have proffered forgiveness to *"WHOSOEVER shall call upon the name of the Lord."* God's Word imparts faith to the hearer and gives clear direction in the maze of evil that surrounds us: IF we obey and think in His Word *"day and night."* Sin may easily beset, but forgiven sin is forgotten sin. God is not interested in "Sorry!" He desires repentance. Repentance is a return to obedience. I've heard many say, "I'm searching for God's will in my life," but they neglect the reading and study of God's Will for us, His Word! We *"can do all things through Christ,"* that is, God's Word. Faith is the *"way of escape."* Faith is obedience, born out of our love of God; constraining us from evil. *"We love Him, because He first loved us. And hereby we do know that we know Him, IF we keep (obey) His commandments (God's Word). He that saith, 'I know Him,' and keepeth not His commandments, IS A LIAR, and the Truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth His Word, in him verily is the Love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him."* You are God's child if you love Him and obey His Word!

When sin so easily besets,
Father forgives and then forgets,
His Grace and mercy more abound,
Wherever sinful man is found. -CGP

Besetting sin will steal your joy if you let it. If your foot slips, grip the Father's hand more tightly and He will immediately bring you back onto the pathway.

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him (obey God's Word), and He shall direct thy paths (choices)." Proverbs 3:5-6