

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: "Give me 100 preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergy or layman, such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of Heaven on earth. God does nothing but in answer to prayer. ~ John Wesley

MR. ROOSTER'S BATTLE

No matter how badly last year treated you,
Just walk tall with your head high. This is a brand new year baby!



Opening this email from a friend, I burst out laughing and thought, "What a beat up and bedraggled specimen you are Mr. Rooster! Oh yeah, I can relate with you big time! Bad treatment last year is putting it mildly. Uh huh, Mr. Rooster, we have lots in common, so I'm taping your picture on my computer in memory of past trials and difficult situations and crazy circumstances that I too encountered in 2009.

The laughter subsided, and as I sat staring at Mr. Rooster, thoughts whizzed through my mind. At first glance, my eyes saw only the torn and ruffled feathers; the bare skin glaring through. Then I leaned back in my chair and I saw the whole picture; the head held high, the battle scars throughout his body, and the feet moving with steadfast steps. "Why," I thought, "He looks like he is marching."

I thought, "Only You Lord could bring Mr. Rooster through the intense battles he fought. Only You, Lord, could give him strength, and hope to push through the difficulties, so he could still hold his head high and march in tune to your heavenly band; not drag himself, but march into this new year with confidence and purpose in his heart and spirit."

I don't think Mr. Rooster is giving a thought to the picture he presents to other, because his focus is on You, his Creator; the One who sustains and loves him unconditionally. His focus is not on the past, but his vision is on the present and the future. He knows that the past is old and his destiny is always and foremost in You, Father."

From talking to different friends, believers and people worldwide, 2009 was a difficult year for many of us. Battle after battle was fought and at times God's children were close to losing heart, but God always came through and brought us into victory; fortifying us in His peace. He has wonderful ways of bringing us back into His truth and revealing the enemies' lies, so His light can shine through and we again have solid ground to stand upon and clarity of mind and heart while he tends to our wounds.

So what is our hope?

What is our truth to carry us through the battles?

What is our part in this journey of life?

Dr. T. W. Wilingham said, "To those who hunger to know Him, here is the door-the door of obedience."

It is that hunger for the God-centered life that gives us guidelines for living. A God-centered life is a life of trust in the Lord no matter what things appear to look like or how difficult the journey of life may be.

Graham Cook says, "God is consistent, but he is also unpredictable. He is consistent in his nature. You always know where you are with God, but you seldom know what He is going to do next. You cannot find security in what God is doing. There is only security in WHO GOD IS."

Friend, God was with Adam and Eve, walking with them in the cool of the evening. God was with Abraham, even calling him his friend. God was with Moses and the Children of Israel; He was with the apostles.

But the GOOD NEWS is... He is IN you. Therefore, in the battles of life, we may at times look like Mr. Rooster, but those times will pass and we will continue on when we keep our faith in Jesus.

Egar Stites said, "Simply trusting every day, Trusting through a stormy way, Even when my faith is small, Trusting Jesus, that is all. Trusting as the moments fly, Trusting as the days go by. Trusting him what e'er befall, Trusting Jesus, that is all."

Be obedient, trust in the Lord with all your heart, live a life of humility, reverence for God and right living, and let your life honors the Lord as you give Him your best. And you too, as Mr. Rooster, may encounter many difficult battles, get beat up, and walk in hard places, but remember in Jesus you are the overcomers! Your life has a purpose and your destiny to fulfill.

Howard Grose ties it all in for the believer with these words: "Give of your best to the Master; Give of the strength of your youth Clad in salvation's full armor, Join in the battle for truths. Give of your best to the Master; Give him first place in your heart. Give him first place in your service, consecrate every part. Give of your best to the Master. Naught else is worthy His love. He gave himself for your ransom. Gave up his Glory above."

Divided we fall, together we stand! Amen.