

Advent Devotional 2011

Week 2

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Monday, December 12

Mighty God

O Lord God Almighty, who is like you? You are mighty, O Lord, and your faithfulness surrounds you. Psalm 89:8

Finally, be strong in the Lord and his mighty power. Ephesians 6:10

When I think about the almighty God there are many things that come to mind. From the creation of the world, and you and I, to healing the sick, and raising the dead. What I often overlook is how our all powerful God wants to use his might and strength in every aspect of our lives. It was through His might that he sent Jesus to earth as a baby and raised him from the grave to save us. So often we fail to ask or pray to God for this power in our situation, or our everyday activities. We aren't sure if God will come through this time or it's such a small thing why bother. We know God is capable, but do we believe he will?

Every year as we get closer to Christmas, I always look forward to gathering with family and friends. It is a fun time of watching football, playing games, and enjoying lots of food and goodies. What I want to make sure I do this year is to take the time to reflect on and pray for God's mighty power and strength. We need to remember that it is by His power we are saved and we can do everything through Christ who gives us the strength. For nothing is impossible with God. Do you truly believe and trust God's Might in your life?

~Jeron Chatelain

Tuesday, December 13

Mighty God

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

I was working near Threemile Dam during a flood many years ago when a young calf got into the river and was being carried downstream rapidly. I thought, if that was a child, what could or should I do. I was convinced that if it was a child I could go into the flood and not worry, because of the unlimited power of God as related in this scripture. I have never forgotten that situation or the confidence God led me to experience. It continues to provide me assurance in life's circumstances. As you might guess the calf was washed downstream about 100 yards and was able to crawl out on the bank, where it was met by its mother. It got a "licken", in a good way.

We serve a Mighty God and can be sure that He can protect us if we allow ourselves to be used by Him.

~Jim Phelps

Wednesday, December 14

Prince of Peace

"Blessed are the peace makers for they shall be called sons of God."

Matthew 5:9

If you want to bask in the glory of the prince of peace, visualize Mary and baby Jesus in the manger, and all the warm fuzzies that come with that scene. Nobody else could or would duplicated it. Think of the depths of your love for your family and friends. Is there an added dimension because you have the ability to love more deeply, to be more forgiving, to smile more, and to embrace life? Peace is brought about by a deeper love, which could cause us to worry more about those we care about. What is it that corrects this scene? The omnipotent presence—not just of God or Jesus—but of the Holy Spirit. Take heart, the bases are covered! Peace, heavenly peace. Relax! Blow up your faith balloon and believe.

~Nick Hicks

Thursday, December 15

Wonderful Counselor

And he will be Wonderful Counselor Mighty God. Isaiah 9:6

Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of Angels around the throne of the living beings and the elders and they sang in a mighty chorus : Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered--

To receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing. Rev 5:11-12

Our God is too big to understand, but if He were not, he would be too small to worship

~Russ Warner

Friday, December 16

Everlasting Father

Only be careful, and watch yourself closely that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them. Deuteronomy 4:9

The Israelites failed to do this, even after all the miracles they had seen. These included the plagues, parting of the red sea, providing daily food, providing water in the desert, stopping the flow of the Jordan river, and many others. In Judges 2:8-10 it says that after Joshua and his whole generation died, "another generation grew up, who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel". This generation "followed and worshiped various gods". Their lives were far from blessed.

Isn't it unbelievable that this generation didn't know the Lord or what he had done for their people? We as fathers have a great opportunity and responsibility to tell our children and their children about what we have seen the Lord do and to encourage them know Him personally!

~Jim Phelps

Saturday, December 17

Prince of Peace

The government will rest on his shoulders. Isaiah 9:6

He wore a blood dipped in blood and his title was Word of God. The armies of Heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses. From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations.

He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the almighty, like juice flowing from a wine press. Rev.19: 13-15NLT

From what I observe through the media, I can only conclude that no mortal man can overcome sin and corruption at work in the world at the present time. Come quickly Lord is my prayer!!!

~Russ Warner

Sunday, December, 18

Mighty God

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

Isaiah 9:1-2

There are some people that believe we no longer live in the age of miracles I however believe in the miraculous and have been privileged to experience them even more than I am aware of. One such time happened one dark lonely night when I was called into the hosp for a patient requesting spiritual care. When I arrive I recognized her and knew she was Catholic and figured I would be summoning her priest. As I gazed upon her I saw a woman who was desperately trying to communicate but apparently a devastating stroke had paralyzed her left side both arm and face this made her speaking difficult beyond imagining with tears streaming down her face she seemed to want me to come next to her. I called her by name and told her the Lord loved her- she nodded in agreement. On her way in the nurse told me that she desperately wanted to see her son before she left this world. He had stepped out of her life for some silly reason, vowing never to return. Her daughter sat lovingly by her side with tears streaming down her face. I asked if I could pray with them for healing and for her son. They both nodded through their tear stained hearts. We prayed for God's presence, healing power and for her son to visit. I left her to go find her priest. As I returned I saw her begin to speak clearly and fluently to her daughter. Both arms wrapped around her in a loving embrace that wasn't possible only moments before. And then to my wondering eyes did appear her long lost son, piercing the night and I witness tears of pain turn to tears of joy. What a mighty God we serve!

~Pastor Rick Oliver