



The Proclaimer

PHYLLIS EVANS/VOICES OF VICTORY MINISTRIES

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The fall season is upon us and nature's beauty is all around. We are so blessed as a nation even though tragedy has struck several times in the past few months in our precious America. It seems that nature is crying out for our attention, drawing us together and uniting us in a time of turmoil. The Lord is so wanting His People to learn from all that is happening, not only in this country but across the world, to draw us close to Him. He wants us to call upon Him and believe for His protection and His provisions. The government cannot provide what these hurting people need. When we put our trust in others we will always be let down or it will never be enough. Despite what man does, it can never equal what God can do in a time of crisis.

I wonder how many people in this world realize what TIME it is. We are so close to the second coming of the Lord. If we will just look around us we can see that it seems "all hell" has broken loose in our world. It appears that one horrific thing after another is happening; that nature has gone crazy. No, if we are familiar with scripture, this is all predicted before the coming of the Lord. Mathew 24 speaks of wars and rumors of wars, pestilences and earthquakes. All this must take place and is at a faster and faster rate. We have always had earthquakes and hurricanes and other upheavals of nature, but never has it been since the time of record keeping, that this much is happening and this fast. We as Christians should not fear but rejoice, not for the horrible things that are happening, but rejoice because we know what is close because of what is happening. Everything that can be shaken will be shaken in the coming days. As the old saying goes, "we ain't seen nothing yet". What we have encountered in the last few months will begin to increase and even worse disasters will come. Am I prophesying gloom and doom, certainly not, just what the Word of God says concerning the end days.

This will be the time of the greatest harvest of souls known to man. Because there is no one person to turn to for help, those who are hurting will turn to the Lord and cry out for help. This is when we will begin to see thousands come to the Lord on a daily basis. All of the governments of the world will soon run out of funds because there will be too much happening for them to keep giving. They will run out of finances and other sources. It will be then that the Church will begin to be the source for many. It has been said by those who have been hit by disaster recently, that the Churches have helped them more than any government resources. This will become more and more prominent in the days to come.

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We must begin to pray for those who are living in fear these days and who do not know the Lord. As Christians, we must not fear, but walk in faith as we have never done before. To do this, we must keep the Word of God in our hearts at all times and pray without ceasing. That means be ready to pray in an instant and continually if needed. How many people work around you that you know does not have a relationship with the Lord? How many are you witnessing to, not just by words, but by your actions and your deeds. Are you portraying the Lord in what you do each day and do you realize how many people are watching you? God is calling us to walk closer to Him than we ever have before and to keep our ears open to hear what His Spirit is saying all the time. He always lets His people know beforehand what is coming if they will just listen to the still, small voice of His Spirit.

The way we will have peace in the coming days is to walk so close to the Lord that we feel His presence



with us all the time. We mentally know this, but we must draw so close we feel the Holy Spirit breath on us. Draw into His presence. Call out to Him for His presence in your life like you've never experienced before. He will meet you and give you peace in the midst of any storm. He will use you as His voice, His hands and His feet to those around you on a daily basis if you will allow Him.

Can we expect more disasters and tragedies in the coming days? You can count on it. We must be unshakable when it comes to what is going on around us. Psalm 91 says "though a thousand fall by our side and ten thousand at our right had it shall not come near us"..... We must remain strong, steadfast and walking by faith and trust of our Lord to see us through anything that comes. We may be one who leads others to the Lord or He may use us to help someone in dire need. You can rest assured that if we are willing to be used of the Lord, this is going to be the time that we will see it come to pass in great measure.

There will be many Christians who are prospering despite what is going on in the world. God will bless them, not to squander it on luxuries, but to help others and to promote the Gospel of God's saving power. Our prayer daily should be, "Lord, use me today to carry out all you would have me do and be a blessing to everyone around me." Our character should be like the Lord. I read a story today that I think says what I'm trying to say best. When you read it you will understand.

Silver

Malachi 3:3 says, "He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver."

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God.

One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver to the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot; then she thought again about the verse that says, "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver".

She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined.

The man answered that yes, he had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then, she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined"?

He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy,.....when I see my image in it".

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has His eyes on you and will keep watching you until He sees His image in you.

The Lord wants to see His image in all of us and it's at the toughest times that we seem to draw the closest to Him and most importantly, He will draw close to us if we will let Him. Let us begin to reach out to others, not only in word but in deed. Let others see the image of Jesus in you today and every day. This will happen as we become like His image. God bless you and may you have a wonderful and blessed fall season, and remember, it's in the fall season when the harvest is gathered.....

