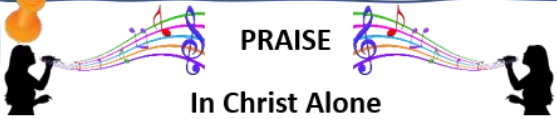


.On the first day of the second lockdown I spotted an unknown car parked outside my neighbour's house. Still feeling aggrieved over not being able to allow my grandchildren to visit I began to have bad thoughts about my neighbour's apparent disobedience of the new lockdown law of not having visits from people outside the immediate family My thoughts soon turned from surprise to indignation and I began to think of my neighbour in a new and not very positive light. Within minutes I had become accuser, judge and jury and found her wanting. Just then a young woman walked down the road from the



PRAISE

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found
 He is my light, my strength, my song
 This cornerstone, this solid ground
 Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
 What heights of love, what depths of peace
 When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
 My comforter, my all in all
 Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh
 Fullness of God in helpless babe
 This gift of love and righteousness
 Scorned by the ones He came to save
 'Til on that cross as Jesus died
 The wrath of God was satisfied
 For every sin on Him was laid
 Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
 Light of the world by darkness slain
 Then bursting forth in glorious day
 Up from the grave He rose again
 And as He stands in victory
 Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
 For I am His and He is mine
 Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
 This is the pow'r of Christ in me
 From life's first cry to final breath
 Jesus commands my destiny
 No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man
 Can ever pluck me from His hand
 'Til He returns or calls me home
 Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand

direction of the park with a young child.. As I watched she strapped the toddler into the car, folded down the pushchair and drove off. A complete stranger who was visiting the park as she was allowed to do had parked her car in front of my neighbours house. I was so glad I was able to see the situation clearly before I harboured wrong thoughts about my neighbour or worse still gossiped them to others.

Things are not always what they seem. It's like walking at night. You think you see a person but then you come to find out that it is only a shadow. In the light you can see how the darkness fooled you. Many of us are walking looking at circumstances, yet there is more than meets the eye. We see the natural but God has an incredible supernatural plan in motion. 2 Kings 6:15-17 illustrates this.

"When the servant of the man of God got up early the next morning and went outside, there were troops, horse and chariots everywhere. 'Oh sir, what shall we do now?' the young man cried to Elisha. 'Don't be afraid!' Elisha told him. 'For there are more on our side than on theirs!' Then Elisha prayed 'O Lord, open his eyes and let him see!' The Lord opened the young man's eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire. "

Just because it looks like defeat it does not mean you are defeated. Just because you feel all alone, it doesn't mean that you are all alone. Just because you can't see all that God is doing for you, it doesn't mean He isn't doing anything. Things are not always what they seem. There is more than meets the eye. Darkness can trick us into seeing things or believing things, but don't give in to negative thoughts or fear. In God's light there is always more of Him and His forces with us than against us.

Can you imagine what you might see if God opened your eyes as He did Elisha's? How He might be defending you, protecting you or fighting your battles?

Things are not always what they seem.

Pray for God to open your eyes to see him in your life,
at work surrounding you and supporting you in these battles.

Praise God for who he is,
reminding yourself of his power and might.

Give thanks for all the ways he is faithful and good,
taking specific note of the ways you've seen him at work in your own life.

Fight the enemies by shifting your focus to God.

Like Elisha's servant, take heart and do not be afraid.

Don't give in to panic, but instead open your eyes to see God in your life.



We're going to be sending out a monthly devotional thought and if you have something that you would like to share with us please get in touch and we will be delighted to send it out

You can contact us on Extraordinary.Women@outlook.com or 07889397373 (Moyra), 07776412884 (Helen)