

The Next Four Years!
(Under the Leadership of President Obama)

Pastor Kelly Sensenig

In light of the recent voting results, with the reelection of President Obama, many Christians have become discouraged and wonder what we should do and how we can survive the next four years if our President continues to fundamentally transform America, as he says, from a republic to a socialistic country.

We often say in our salute of the flag and country, “And to the republic for which it stands.” And yet, our beloved country is changing its course and trajectory rather quickly. Our republic is being abandoned for other ideological principles that America was not founded upon.

Right now it seems like there is no way out. We are fast losing the beloved republic that was given to us, since our birth as a nation, a republic that soldiers have fought for and given their lives for. We are quickly losing the freedoms we can have as American citizens.

These are not some kind of “alarmist” conclusions; they are a factual reality. This is not “politics as usual” which is taking place in Washington. What is happening is the takeover of America and our freedoms by adopting and promoting an ideology (socialism and Liberation Theology) that is completely foreign to the ideas of our American founding fathers, our Constitution, and way of life as American citizens.

I must say that everything that is taking place in our country right now is maddening! It’s heartbreaking! It’s evil.” The president is running on what he calls “hope and change” but his hope and change is not the hope and change that Christians can possess when they find stillness and rest in God. Beloved, in spite of these recent trends and the next four years under the socialistic leadership of President Obama, God has given us, as Christians, a mandate and plan for hope. He has given us a course on how to live for the next four years. God has not forgotten us as His people. He has a plan for us that will calm our souls and provide us with hope for the future.

God has given us a plan for the next four years.

I need God's plan and must follow this plan or else I will become distraught and discouraged when witnessing the collapse of our freedoms, the changing philosophies within our country, and how these changes will affect my personal life.

Yes, God has given us a plan for the next four years. God always has a plan! Our current President may have an agenda and plan but God's plan is far greater and I will follow His plan and make it my own. I will internalize God's plan, and in doing so, I will find rest for my soul and direction for the days ahead.

God's plan consists of five simple steps.

I. Be still (peace)

During the next four years I must experience stillness or peace.

Psalm 46:10

"Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah."

This verse is given to His people Israel in view of the heathen and enemy soldiers that were coming against Jerusalem in that day. God reassures His people to be still and see His hand work and that He will bring His perfect plan to pass as the exalted God. However, this will also be true on a greater and far vaster scale when Jesus Christ returns and destroys the millions of soldiers in the land of Palestine, and becomes the exalted King over planet earth.

In this section of Scripture, we discover how to experience stillness or peace during difficult times, as life changes all around us. The answer to finding peace is to relax in God's sovereignty. The Bible declares, "Be still (serenity) and know that I am God (God is sovereign – "I'm in charge!")." What must we know about God in order to keep our spiritual sanity and find rest for our souls? We must know that He is in charge of everything that is taking place in connection with our lives and country.

There are three observations.

a. The penetrating introduction

“Be still and know that I am God.” The words make up a beautiful statement in the Bible that is designed to penetrate our hearts and leave an indelible mark upon our souls. If this Bible truth does not stir our hearts then nothing will bring any lasting change into our lives. God wants us to be still by experiencing His presence in our lives and recognizing His sovereign work throughout the earth.

Many times these words will often appear on plaques and posters and they are always placed in the setting or context of serene and picturesque nature scenes. They remind us how we can pause and reflect upon God as the Creator and know that the beautiful creation all around us is His handiwork, which in return should bring us closer to knowing God intimately and personally in our spiritual lives. In other words, we can know Him as the Creator of all the lovely creation that surrounds us and this in some sense will draw us closer to the Lord as we reflect and meditate upon His greatness and glory as witnessed in the creation that surrounds us.

“This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world,
The birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world:
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
He speaks to me everywhere.”

“Be still and know that I am God!” Yes, we can know that He is the Creator of everything and draw closer to Him when we see His handiwork in the creative wonders that surround us. The beauty and calmness of nature will often cause us to reflect upon the beauty and nature of God and how wonderful He is as the Creator and how close He wants to be to our lives.

It is certainly proper to place these words (“be still and know that I am God”) in a context of God’s creative and sovereign acts of His creative works (nature) but this verse is actually placed in the context of His destructive and peaceful works upon the earth, envisioning the time when Christ returns in His Second Coming to destroy the armies of Armageddon and then bring peace to this war-stricken world.

Psalm 46:9

“He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire.”

Psalm 46:10 adds:

“I will be exalted in the earth.”

These verses point to the Second Coming and the time of peace Jesus Christ will bring over the earth when He returns as the sovereign King and takes charge of the earth.

The term “be still” means to relax in God’s workings in relationship with our personal lives but also the world events, so we can find peace for our souls even when everything is in turmoil around us. The concept behind “knowing God” means to reflect on God’s sovereignty and see His hand behind everything that is taking place.

This particular Psalm portrays the sovereign God as bringing to pass His perfect plan and purpose upon the earth. So what is a good definition of the sovereignty of God? The sovereignty of God means that He is in charge of everything that occurs in connection with our own personal lives and with what is taking place in America right now. God does whatever He wants to do, with whomsoever He wants to do it, whenever He wants to do it. He is God!

Psalm 46:8

“Come, behold the works of the Lord, what desolations he hath made in the earth.”

Behold the works of the Lord! We “know” experientially that He is God when we accept what He is doing in our personal lives and also in connection with the events taking shape in our country and over the earth. They are all in some way the works of the Lord! As God’s children, we can “know that he is God” (experience the wonder and amazement of His providential workings) by seeing His hand in everything that occurs around us or within us and knowing that everything that has taken place in the past (the founding of America) and what is taking place in the present (the gradual demise of America) is all part of God’s providential plan.

Beloved, “know” that He is God! Are you ready to really “know” Him today? Are you ready to know and find rest in the truth that God is working a plan and that things just don’t happen by chance? Are you ready to accept that God is always good, righteous, and perfect in what He allows and does in this world?

“Be still and know that I am God.” Here is what the Bible is teaching; you won’t be still (at peace or rest) until you know that God is in charge of everything that takes place in this world, in the future, and with your own personal life! The way to find stillness is to rest in God’s sovereignty – His providence in bringing His perfect plan and purpose to pass.

Let’s think even deeper on this wonderful truth. “Be still and know that He is God” – that God is over all! Be still and see His handiwork in everything – the beauty of nature (mountains, trees, stars, thunderstorm), the devastations and disasters throughout the earth, America’s birth and future destiny, etc. “Come, behold the works of the Lord” (Ps. 46:8). God is always working behind the scenes. Until we see God as the only wise Creator, Sustainer, and Changer; we won’t know Him personally or have peace and rest in our hearts.

“Be still and know that I am God.” This is the secret of everything! The secret does not involve psychology, psychotherapy, and other techniques of man; it’s learning to be still (relax and experience peace) in God’s work, whatever He is doing, His providential and sovereign way, not only for my

personal life but also resting in the events that are reshaping this world at the present time and even reshaping America.

Remaining still and knowing God are linked together. They cannot be separated. Stillness (peace and rest) cannot be experienced in our lives the next four years without having faith and confidence in God's sovereignty (control over world events). The Hebrew construction "be still" literally means "to sink down and relax." Men, after a hard day's work you sometimes sit down and sink down in your Lazy Boy chair recliner. This is what the word means. Of course, it has a metaphorical understanding. It connotes someone who is resting and quiet (peaceful). It is someone who is experiencing inner calmness and tranquility of soul, as they rest in God's sovereign purpose for their lives and in the events that are occurring around them.

The word "know" (Ps. 46:10) means to understand and perceive *who* God is (His character) and *what* He is doing (His course of events). What must we know about God? In short, we must know that God is a good, just, righteous, loving, faithful, and sovereign God, and we must know that whatever He does in the world and with our own personal lives is in keeping with His character and perfect plan! If we don't know this, we will fall apart in life! If we don't place our confidence in God's sovereignty over every situation in our own personal lives and in world events then we will not experience the inner rest or stillness we can have in life even when things are not going the way we think they should.

We will find rest for our souls when we can say, "Come, behold the works of the Lord" (Ps. 46:8). In other words, we can't relax or find peace in our hearts unless we know that God is ultimately in control of the events taking place in our world and that He is leading a perfect symphony that is coming to a climax and ending.

"Be still and know that I am God." Find rest in the fact that God knows what He is doing and that He will never do anything that is not in keeping with His character. In 2 Kings 19:19, King Hezekiah prayed for deliverance from the Assyrians which is the background of this Psalm: "Now therefore, O Lord our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the Lord God, even thou only."

Knowing God means to understand that He is always at work behind the scenes and is bringing His plan to fruition in connection with our personal lives and throughout the earth. Of course, knowing God or possessing knowledge about God is much more than just “head” knowledge. It is also an intimate awareness of God’s presence, it involves developing a closer relationship with God that is experienced in our hearts as we understand His character and accept His ways for our life. We can’t really know God personally and in a deeper way unless we are willing to yield to Him as our Lord, Leader, Life-giver, and when we lean upon Him.

In Philippians 3:10 Paul said, “That I may know him.” May this be our burning desire these next four years! We need to have a closer walk with God, and intimate awareness of who God is and how He works. We experience “stillness” (rest for our weary soul) and “know” God experientially in our personal lives, drawing closer to Him, as we understand His character and yield to His plan for our lives. This intimate knowledge with God occurs when we meditate upon Scripture or when God allows certain events to take place around us and in our lives, which ultimately brings us to our knees and draws us closer to Him.

The Fire Song

“I’ve been through a fire,
That has deepened my desire
To know the living God more and more.
It hasn’t been much fun,
But the work that is has done
In my life has made it worth the hurt.

You see, sometimes we need the hard times,
To bring us to our knees
Otherwise we do as we please
And never heed Him.

But He always knows what’s best
And it’s when we are depressed
That we really come to know God as He is.”

Yes, we come to know God as He is – not as we want Him to be! Beloved, He is the all-wise and loving God, who is bringing to pass His purpose for

our lives, which is for our good (Romans 8:28). When we pass through difficult times and trials, we have a new sense of who God is! We understand that His ways are much greater and broader than our ways and we sense His nearness and dearness to our lives, as He reveals Himself to us, reassuring us of His love, peace, and faithfulness even as life changes all around us.

So how do we really get to know God? Once again, “stillness” (peace and rest) and “knowing” God, getting to know God better (who He is and how He works) is the result of Bible meditation, reflection, worship, and personal quiet time with the Lord.

Psalm 5:3

“My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.”

As we meditate on God, we come to “know” Him experientially, understanding that He is always a good, faithful, and just God in what He allows to come into our personal lives and that His love is unending (Rom. 8:38-39).

When we know who God is and accept His sovereign ways, we can then yield to His providential workings in the world (even in America) and in connection with our own personal lives. We can yield to His ways understanding that He is a just and righteous God in everything that He does, or allows to occur in connection with our personal lives, and we will accept His ways believing His ways are always right.

“His power can make you what you ought to be;
His blood can cleanse your heart and make you free;
His love can fill your soul, and you will see
'Twas best for Him to have His way with thee.”

Genesis 18:25

“Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

Abraham knew in his heart that God always does what is right! Even when He does not answer our prayers in the way we think He should. Please note that Abraham “drew near” (Gen. 18:23) to God in prayer and intercession and communed with God (Gen. 18:33) while seeking God’s

will and resting in His sovereign outcome for these wicked cities. We need to draw near to God as well while praying for America but then rest in God's purpose and plan for this country even though it might not be our plan. We must always conclude that the Judge of all the earth will do right!

One thing we must remember is that God has a plan that is often interwoven together with the heathen and unsaved of this world. In other words, God brings His plan to fruition while affecting both God's children and those who are not God's children. Matthew 5:45 declares that "he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." The other day I got out two cords and I discovered that they were knotted together at certain places. They had become intertwined together and when that happens I want to get a knife and cut them apart. Of course, it pays to have patience. So what do we do? We begin to unwind them and separate them from each other.

Jesus taught that sometimes the Father allows His plans to intersect or intertwine between godly and ungodly people, the saved and unsaved, the righteous and unrighteous, so both can experience God's blessing or either experience calamity together at the same time. Such is often the case with the people living in the same geographical region or in the country of America.

Let's face it; we are quick to yield to God's ways and know that He is God (in charge) when He sends the beneficial rains over us but are we willing to yield and know that He is God when He allows earthquakes, hurricanes, or sends judgment upon our country for killing multi-millions of babies in the wombs of mothers and throwing God out of our country?

No matter what God allows, we can learn to walk by faith and find stillness or rest by understanding and accepting His sovereignty over every situation that befalls us personally or our beloved country. Be still. RELAX! God is in control! God is on the throne. God is bringing His plan to pass. Go with it, live with it, and accept it; since we can't change it. Our time of meditation and worship before the Lord brings a fresh revelation of His character to our hearts (Ps. 104:34) and allows us to accept His sovereign purposes for our lives (Rom. 8:28).

How do we experience peace? We relax in God's sovereignty and work which He is allowing to come to pass in the world and in connection with our personal lives.

b. The prophetic interpretation

Psalm 46:10

"Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth."

This is primarily a prophetic revelation of when Jesus returns as the King to destroy the armies surrounding the land of Palestine and take back the early for the glory of God.

Psalm 46:9

"He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire."

Be still and know that He is God! Jesus Christ will return as God incarnate someday, destroy all those rebelling against Him, and rule this world with perfect righteousness. Be still and let Him be God! He is in charge and will bring this to pass!

How can we be still (find peace) in God (His ways and workings in the earth)? By knowing that someday all the wrongs will be made right and that this old world will one day be overtaken by King Jesus.

In this context, to "know" who God is and what He is doing is best explained in the following prophetic words: "I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth" (Psalm 46:10). When Jesus Christ is exalted as King over the earth someday during the Millennium everyone will know that He is God! Someday Jesus Christ is going to be the absolute King and sovereign Potentate over planet earth and no one will stop Him from ruling. In light of this, BE still - RELAX! Pull the covers up and recline for a while!

How can we be still when evil men are ruling and as the world is spiraling out of control? First, we can know that God is in control. Second, we can know that Jesus Christ is coming back someday as the righteous King and He is going to take over! Step aside President Obama, step aside

Democrats, step aside Republicans, step aside socialists, step aside communists, step aside liberals, step aside dictators, step aside Chavez and all the rest of them! We had better know who God is, accept who God is, and what He is going to do someday! God will do what He has planned to do in the earth and no one will change His mind! Of course, when Jesus comes back as the King and absolute sovereign ruler, He will overtake this world and change it into a theocracy. What a glorious prospect.

Revelation 19:16

“And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

All of this will take place in the future! Of course, in some sense this was true historically, when God wiped out the heathen Assyrian soldiers coming against Jerusalem, but it will also be true on a greater and far vaster scale, when Jesus Christ returns and destroys the millions of soldiers in the land of Palestine, and becomes the exalted King over planet earth.

God was exalted over the Assyrians, and in the day to come He will once again be exalted over all the armies surrounding Jerusalem and all mankind, when He destroys the satanically inspired soldiers taking aim against Israel and then rules and reigns with a rod of iron (Rev. 19:15; Isaiah 11:4-5). God’s people can find rest knowing that God will win the final battle. Be STILL! We can REST in God’s perfect work that He is going to perform someday. RELAX! God will have the final say and bring this world to its intended climax and goal – the Millennial Kingdom.

c. The personal application

How about you today? Are you relaxing in God, or experiencing inner peace, knowing who God is and what God has been doing in your life? Are you relaxing and finding peace in what He is allowing to come to pass today even within our own beloved country? Have you been knowing God, or experiencing who God really is in the midst of your difficult trials of life, as you reflect on His goodness, faithfulness, love, justice, and mercy? We can be still when remembering and accepting that He is the unchanging and righteous God who always does what is right.

We can “be still” and “know that he is God” (providentially in charge of every event that occurs) as we pass through the changing seasons of our

lives and even as we see America changing before our very eyes. God is still God, and through it all, He will be exalted since His perfect plan is coming to fruition in connection with our personal lives and even with America at this present time.

Exodus 14:13 declares:

“And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.”

Beloved, we can find rest or stillness in the work that God chooses to do with our personal lives and even with our country. We can experience peace, stillness and a state of inner tranquility, when we know that God is in charge of what is happening around us, before us, and with us. God may not always open a Red Sea; He may choose to close a Red Sea, but whatever the case might be, the righteous and faithful God is in charge and He will always do what is best for our lives and in connection with His all-wise plan.

Romans 11:33

“O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!”

Isaiah 55:8

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.”

Are you willing to admit that this is true and accept God’s ways over your life? We sometimes think that God must save America and the republic for which it stands and I hope that He does. Furthermore, I will do whatever I can to save it. I’m not surrendering and giving up. But if God chooses to not to save America; we must accept it. We must be still and know that he is God. We must relax in His all-wise plan and not doubt Him and His ways.

1 Timothy 1:17

“Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

This verse gives me goose bumps all over my body! We have our eyes so bound to politics and the present state of America that we forget to see the

greatness of God and His plan being brought to fruition with everything that is happening in our country and throughout the world today. God is the eternal, immortal invisible, and only wise God that we must bow before, knowing that His ways are always right. This is what it means when the Bible says elsewhere, “Be still and know that I am God.” God is saying, “My way is right and perfect. I am the immortal, eternal, and only wise God. Trust me. I know what I am doing.”

“Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

To all life thou givest to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish but nought changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render: O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.”

The reelection of President Obama for the next four years should never cause us to lose sight of the greatness of God and the bringing to pass of His sovereign ways over the earth. I will be exalted in the earth. There is definitely some practical application of this to our lives today. It reminds us that God is in control over everything that takes place and we can find peace and rest in plan of the all-wise God.

There are no accidents in life; only divine appointments! And sometimes disappointments are His appointments!

“I will be exalted among the heathen” (Ps. 46:10). This is God’s powerful and providential work. Can you be still and find rest in it? Surely! No problem! But how about when God quietly says, “I will allow you to experience cancer, I will allow you to pass through a heart attack, or I will allow you to be injured in a car accident, I will allow America to lose her republic upon which she was founded, so ultimately I can get the glory for what I am doing in the earth and bring to fruition my plan?”

Can we rest in this sovereign work of God? Can we “be still” (experience His peace) in the other “I will” events that God allows to enter our personal lives? Yes, we can be still. Stillness comes in the midst of life-shattering and life-changing events. What if God says, “I will allow you to suffer financially, I will allow you to have a handicapped child, I will allow you to have a broken heart and pass through the deep waters.”

The Scripture is saying we must “be still” (rest and relax) in whatever God is doing in the world, whatever He is doing with our personal lives, and whatever He is doing with the lives of others. Why? Because He is God! He knows what He is doing. Beloved, we can “know” that God always does what is right and that He is always a faithful, loving, and a caring God no matter what events He allows to occur in connection with our personal lives. God does not change! Get to know Him and His ways better!

In Malachi 3:6 God states, “For I am the Lord, I change not...” Since God’s character, justice, love, and faithfulness never changes toward His children, then we can be sure that whatever befalls us either directly or indirectly is part of His greater plan. Beloved, we can “be still and know that he is God” or that He is the righteous God who is in charge of every event that occurs in connection with our personal lives as well as the events that are reshaping America. Once again, in order to “be still” we must “know that He is God” (that He is in charge of everything that is taking place!). In order to be still we must know that whatever He does is right and in keeping with His character and sovereign plan.

Have you found stillness or rest in who God is and what God has been doing with your life? Where has God placed you? What God wants to do with your life? You might say, “I have my plans.” Yes, but are they really God’s plans. Remember that His ways are not always our ways! Can you be still with what God has allowed to occur in connection with your own personal life or with our beloved country? Whatever we can change in this country we will give God the glory for it and whatever we can’t change we will still give God the glory and rest in God’s ways and know that He is God – in charge of what is happening. Be still and know that He is God! See His hand in the creation that surrounds you, the conditions that are overwhelming you, and even the current president that is ruling over you.

Where have the events of life taken you? Has the reelection of President Obama to office for the next four years brought unrest and discouragement to your heart? Beloved, be still and know that He is God. God knows what He is doing. He is in charge.

What has God allowed to come into your personal life recently? Be still and know that He is God. What are you experiencing in your life right now? Be still and know that He is God. How are you reacting to President Obama's socialistic agenda for this country? Be still and know that I am God. Don't doubt Him and His ways over the earth; be still in Him!

Be still and know that I am God, when looking at the sunrise or sunset, when viewing world events, when seeing how evil has the upper hand! Be still and know that God is working in connection with all these events, both good and bad, and rest your soul in His sovereign handiwork.

The "still" person is someone who finds peace and calmness in God's sovereign purpose and plan for his life (Ps. 37:1-8), even when that plan may include suffering, persecution, the loss of freedoms, or perhaps a separation from a loved one, or some other difficult circumstance that you are facing, such as a socialistic overtake of our country.

"Be still and know that I am God." What must we know about God? We must "know" that God is in charge of what is going on around me, with me, and in me. This brings peace and stillness into my heart. Furthermore, I we must know that God always does what is in keeping with His character of goodness and faithfulness and what is best for my life (Ps. 34:8). This too bring calmness and stillness into my soul.

"Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide;
In every change, He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end."

Take heart my dear brother and sister. God is always good (Ps. 100:5), God is always in charge (Ps. 135:6), and God will always faithfully provide for His children.

Psalm 34:10

“The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing.”

I was driving on the road the other day and was approaching a squirrel that was in the middle of the road. The squirrel didn't know what to do. It was nervously moving to the right and then to the left. It went in circles and stood up before it finally got out of the way of my approaching car. The fidgeting squirrel reminded me of someone who was all shook up! Is this a picture of you? We can move about with fear and sense that we are about to go down with the ship. But God is calling us to a higher way of living. He summons us, “Be still and know that I am God.” In essence, God is saying, “Relax and stay calm. I'm in charge.” Stop fretting and fidgeting; stop panicking and parading about like a squirrel that is in the middle of the street.

Let us never forget that stillness and sovereignty are inseparably bound together. “Be still (serenity) and know that I am God (sovereignty – “I'm in charge”).” God wants us to “be still” during the tragedies, tests, and tribulations that we face in life, as we accept by faith that He is sovereign, in all of His workings and ways, and that He is bringing His perfect plan to pass for our lives.

Romans 8:28

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

God said it is true! Be still! The sooner we learn to accept, by faith, the working of God's divine providence in our lives, the sooner we will experience stillness or peace.

“I sing through the shade and the sunshine
I trust Him whatever may fall
I sing for I cannot be silent
My Father planned it all.”

Since the Father planned it all, you can be still while passing through it all!
This is God's promise to you!

Isaiah 26:3

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”

God is still on the throne. All is well.

Elisabeth Elliot suffered the loss of two husbands. The first, Jim Elliot, was killed by Auca Indians in Ecuador while trying to reach them with the gospel. The second, Addison Leitch, was slowly consumed by cancer. In relating what these experiences were like, she referred to Psalm 46, saying that in the first shock of death “everything that has seemed most dependable has given way. Mountains are falling, earth is reeling. In such a time it is a profound comfort to know that although all things seem to be shaken, one thing is not: God is not shaken.” She added that the thing that is most needful is to do what the psalmist said, “be still and know that God is God.”

Friend, God is God, whether we recognize it or not! His hand is over all. Are you being still in God – His ways, purposes, and plans for your life? Are you resting in His right to rule your days and do with your life as He pleases? Have you been accepting, by faith, what God allows to happen in your life?

Are you willing to rest in God’s future plan for America? I don’t know exactly what that plan is since I am not God. But God knows and He will bring it to pass for His greater purpose and for His glory.

Psalm 46:8, “Come, behold the works of the Lord ...” So, “Be still and know that I am God.” This means we can find rest for our souls since God is moving behind the scenes! The Lord is in charge!

“I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth” (Ps. 46:10). So, “Be still and know that I am God.” This means we can find rest for our souls knowing God is getting the glory as He brings His sovereign purpose to pass and that someday He will make all things right.

Psalm 76:10

“Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.”

Although God's exaltation and glory will be outwardly displayed when Jesus returns, God is in some sense being exalted and glorified even today since His perfect plan is coming to pass as we see what has been called "His-story" unfolding.

Yes, I can know that He is God! I can believe that He is faithful and good and rest in God's purpose for my life and for America the next four years. Beloved, let God be God, and find rest for your soul.

"Be still, my soul; thy God doth undertake
To guide the future as He has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence, let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below."

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
When we shall be forever with the Lord.
When disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last."

My wife enjoys burning candles throughout the house. Sometimes I can sit down and watch the candle begin to flicker as it gets down to its last stage. The candle is about to burn out and it begins to flicker as it struggles to stay lit. Sometimes a Christian's faith can become like a flickering candle. It can begin to flicker or falter and they can find themselves no longer having the kind of faith and confidence that God wants them to have in Him and His ways. This might be true in respect to the recent elections. Perhaps the election did not turn out the way we planned. Those who love the republic of America upon which it was founded can become disenchanted when seeing the trends of socialism taking root in our beloved country.

II. Be sure (faith)

During the next four years I must experience faith.

Is your faith flickering as a result of the outcome of the election? On the morning after the election I received phone calls, emails, text messages on

my phone (one from China) and had visits from many concerned Christians about where America is heading.

Where is America headed? One thing is certain; not in the right direction unless you enjoy socialism, economic hardship or collapse, and the loss of our constitutional freedoms through government overstepping its boundaries. However, wherever America is headed and whatever is in store for America in the future should not cause my faith to flicker and go out. We can possess faith and be sure that God is still in charge and that His perfect plan is coming to pass. Faith in God does not just bloom when our prayers are answered but when our prayers are not answered and when things go contrary to the way we think.

My Son and daughter-in-law were recently out west at the Grand Canyon. They were showing us some pictures and one of the signs that I remember seeing said this: "Wide, Deep, and Diverse." This is a good description of true faith. It is wide, deep, and diverse. It is ready to believe God even when things are not turning out as we planned!

Our faith rests on three matters.

a. The Lord is on the throne

Psalm 115:3

"But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased."

Since God is on the throne and rules over all, we can be sure or confident that nothing happens by chance. Our faith can remain strong in God's universal rule over all things that are taking place in this life. God is doing what pleases Him in relationship to His greater plan and purpose coming to fruition throughout the earth. This is also true in relationship to President Obama's reelection. He does whatever He wants to with whomsoever He wants to do it, whenever He wants to do it.

Proverbs 21:1

"The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will."

Through God's outward circumstances and inner conviction God moves and directs the hearts of kings to bring about His perfect plan and purpose

for earthly nations and peoples. No, God does not run people like puppets, but He gives them freedom to make decisions that ultimately carry them and the world to its intended goal.

Ezra 1:1

“Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The Lord God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.”

We sometimes think that God did not want President Obama reelected. However, nothing could be further from the truth. Did God vote for President Obama? In one sense, God voted for President Obama!

Daniel 2:21 reveals this about God and His ways:

“And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding.”

God is charge when it comes to voting into office the man that He has ordained. No person will be voted into office or ascend to any throne without God’s approval. Let us never forget this.

Do we see it? Do we want to see it? Will we accept it by faith? Nebuchadnezzar was able to sack the Temple, touch the Temple treasures, defile the Holy of Holies and even *steal* from God, so to speak, because God appointed him. God sets up kings. God removes kings. *God* made Nebuchadnezzar ruler over them, according to His sovereign plan and purpose.

The Prophet Daniel, a victim of Nebuchadnezzar’s conquest, understood this principle well. Nebuchadnezzar was king because God wanted him to be king and he would only *stay* king as long as God wanted him to. No more – no less! Nebuchadnezzar could lay siege to Jerusalem because God permitted it. Indeed, the Siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar was part of the overall plan of God for the ages.

God also appointed Cyrus the Persian, Alexander the Great, Pilate, King Leopold II, Josef Stalin, Adolf Hitler, Saddam Hussein, and every other murderous dictator in history.

The Bible teaches us that tyrants who have absolute power on earth are given their authority by God. God sets up kings and He brings down kings according to His will. No tyrant, no matter how terrible, achieved his rank through his own effort. While Satan is certainly capable of corrupting them, he is powerless to appoint them.

My faith and hope is not in Washington but in God and His Word. We must cling to God in these last days. Our faith must remain strong in Him and the purpose that He wants to bring to pass for our country.

Once again, faith does not mean that we have confidence that everything will turn out better and in the way we think it should. Faith is much deeper and broader than this. Faith means we will trust in God whatever befalls us in this life and whatever kind of political climate we are living in. Faith will trust in God's purpose and provision in spite of the evil that surrounds us, the opposition that is against us, and the politics that engulf us.

Mark 11:22

“And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.”

b. The Lord will see us through

Hebrews 13:5

“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

Jesus promised that He would be with us unto the end of the age! There is not greater promise than this. Jesus said in Matthew 28:20, “and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” If Jesus promises that He would be with us to the “end of the world” then certainly He will be with us unto the end of President Obama's time in office. The Lord will see us through no matter what He has in store for America and the days to come. His presence is with us to sustain us, supply us, and send us out into the world to do His bidding. Have faith!

c. The Lord is going to return

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

The “mystery” has to do with a “sacred secret” not revealed in the Old Testament but now revealed in New Testament revelation. It’s the mystery about Christ’s return to take His New Testament saints out of this world prior to His Second Coming to earth. There was no secret in the Old Testament regarding Christ’s Second Coming. The Second Coming was clearly revealed in the prophets (Dan. 7:22; Mal. 4:2-3). Christ would someday return with His saints to reign on the earth in the last day. However, there was a secret that was hidden and which Paul revealed concerning Christ’s coming to take His beloved Church out of the world prior to His return to earth as the King.

The Rapture (1 Thess. 4:13-18) can be referred to as a SECRET coming because it was said to be a “mystery” not revealed in the Old Testament. It was only revealed to New Testament Church saints. The secret coming involves a return of Christ that transports His living saints back to the Father’s House in Heaven seven years before the Millennial Kingdom is established. Instead of immediately coming back to earth for the earthly kingdom Jesus taught His disciples that they (representative of the Church) would be taken back to the Father’s House before the Millennial Kingdom arrives on earth. This is a new revelation of the New Testament.

John 14:1-3

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

Dearly beloved, let us not forget that Jesus is coming again. We are to possess great faith and expectancy in the ever-present reality that Christ may return for us. Jesus may come today! This means that we will be taken out of this sinful world with all of its problems, which include governmental

socialism, communism, cover-ups and everything else that is wrong with government. There is no socialism in Heaven! There is no more government overreach and heartaches in Glory. There is only glory by and by! The best is yet to come since we are going to a better place, a better land, and we are going to experience a better life.

Keep your heart and faith bound to God's promise regarding His Son's return.

Titus 2:13

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."

Christ's return is our blessed hope! It's a hope in several ways. First, it will rescue us from planet earth before the seven-year Tribulation Period. Second, it will bring us the hope of a new body that is without pain and suffering. It is the time when we will be rescued from all our earthly troubles and trials. Never again will we have to live in a sin-cursed world and put up with evil rulers and dictators. Jesus will come and take us back to the Father's House. There are no Democrats, Republicans, or any progressives in Heaven! Only Christians! Keep your eyes in the sky and listening for the trumpet sound. We must live in light of it and experience the hope that we have in Christ's imminent return.

"Someday the King of Glory will part the clouds praise His name,
Someday all pain and sorrow will erase,
Someday I'll see my Savior face to face,
Someday He is coming back for me."

"Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:10). Perhaps Today!

III. Be strong (strength)

During the next four years I must be strong.

Of course, we can only be strong when experiencing the Lord's supernatural strength for our lives ("be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might" - Eph. 6:10). We must be strong the next the four years. Christians do not have to crumble under the pressure. Christians thrive on

pressure and know that God manifests His wonderful life to us so we can endure the pressures and changes that face us in life.

Psalm 27:1

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”

I recall listening to a soprano singing this song many years ago. She was singing so high I thought that her voice reached into heaven itself. Listen, we have something to sing about. Stop souring and looking down! The Lord is the strength of our lives and He can take us through anything that future throws at us. He will give us the supernaturally ability to face life’s demands even when that involves losing our liberties and freedoms in this country.

No, I don’t want to see this country lose its freedoms, liberties, and uniqueness among the world of all nations of the past, but come what may I am going to sing as the Psalmist did, “The Lord is my light and salvation.” I will shout it to the housetops and heavens and know that God is my spiritual deliverer no matter what government might throw at me, no matter how much President Obama wants to limit the freedom of religion in this country.

“Whom shall I fear?” This certainly includes President Obama. I will not fear him. I will not allow his evil plans to destroy America and take away our liberties to strike fear in my heart and overcome my life with debilitating terror and defeat.

Psalm 118:6

“The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?”

IV. Be Scriptural (Bible-believing)

During the next four years I must believe the truth.

Many years ago I was complaining what was happening in this world to one elderly preacher. He listened for a while and then finally looked up at me and asked, “Don’t you believe the Bible?” I was rather stunned by his question. He then began to explain to me how the world is moving according to God’s plan and that during the last days we must expect

increasingly difficult times in the Church and over the earth. He was right! A lesson well-learned by a young preacher!

Two Biblical matters must be understood.

A. We must understand the times in which we live.

In order to be Scriptural, we must know what the Bible says regarding the last days and God's plan for this world.

2 Timothy 3:1

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come."

Timothy is a "last day" epistle. It speaks of how the Church and what conditions will be like on earth prior to Christ's coming for His Church. The word "perilous" means hard to bear, troublesome, dangerous, harsh, fierce, or savage. The Bible predicts that things will get worse as the coming of Jesus Christ draws near.

2 Timothy 3:13

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."

Do we really believe the Bible? Do we really understand where we are in respect to God's plan? The Bible is very clear; we are living in the "last days" prior to Christ's return for His beloved Bride, the Church, and as this time approaches the conditions in the Church and throughout the earth will become increasingly apostate and difficult. The Bible teaches that worldwide conditions are not going to necessarily get better as we approach the Rapture and the beginning of the Tribulation Period. In fact, the Bible predicts that things will get much worse.

Evil men will abound with their lies, deception, plans, greedy purposes, and satanically-inspired dreams. Men will seek to overthrow and control others with their false teaching and evil ways even as they live in the realm of deception ("and being deceived" – 2 Tim. 3:13). Let me tell you what is behind the present socialistic movement and agenda in America. It's deception. This is deception and blindness caused in part by the Evil One – the devil himself.

Even during His day, The Lord Jesus said, when the enemy came to arrest Him, "... this is your hour, and the power of darkness" (Luke 22:53). We go through times when the enemy has the upper hand! Let us never forget this. We see this occurring in America today with the overtaking of our freedoms, liberties, and constitutional rights as American citizens. We need to be a Biblicist and realist today! God has not planned that things will increasingly get better but "wax worse and worse" (2 Tim. 3:13). We are living in the last days!

B. We must understand the way God wants us to live.

Beloved, we must stand up for truth even when times become tough. We are to be salt and light when darkness surrounds us.

How does God want us to live the next four years?

a. Preserve the truth

Matthew 5:13

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men."

The Christian is to be the saltshaker of the earth. Salt during Bible times was used extensively as a preservative for foods. Jesus was drawing a parallel between salt and the Christian life. We are God's children and are expected to preserve the truth when the truth is no longer believed, taught, or completely abandoned for humanism and other worldly philosophies. A Christian needs to stand up for what is morally right and good in the midst of socialism, liberalism, existentialism, hedonism, humanism, and every other "ism" that mankind throws at us.

b. Promote the light

Matthew 5:14

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid."

Matthew 5:16

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

God wants us to be glowing Christians – not moaning Christians. We can moan about the political climate in this country and be absorbed by the condition of America but this will not allow our radiant light to shine before the unsaved. We need to shine forth the life of Jesus Christ to others so they will see an interest in the salvation that we possess in Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:14

“Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble-minded (faint-hearted), support the weak, be patient toward all men.”

If we are always moaning and groping around because of the politics in this county, our light will go out! What this means is that our testimonies must remain constant and pure in these last days of callousness toward sin, compromise, and the course of socialism which is stealing away our American freedoms. We must not lose sight of who God wants us to be and how He wants us to act as Christians even when things are becoming increasingly difficult and morally debunked in this county.

We must also remember that arguing with someone about politics will not save their soul. We must present to people the claims of Christ and reach them for Christ. Unless we do this they will never be rescued from their blindness and sin. Turn on the lights!

V. Be serving

During the next four years I must serve the Lord.

I cannot allow this last election to throw off my spiritual living and service. Sitting down in your chair and griping about everything won't change the lives of people and build up God's Church and bring glory to Him.

Romans 12:11 gives us this command:

“Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.”

Three commands are given.

a. Stop being lazy

The word “slothful” suggests that a Christians can become sluggish and bogged down in his life when being overcome with the “passing things” of

this world (1 John 2:15). I remember seeing an old Moody Science film that was called “The Sloth.” It was one of the most boring films I’ve ever watched. Every picture shown was of an animal called a sloth which was hanging in a tree. A sloth moves about very slowly and mostly hangs around in trees. It seems to go nowhere and get nothing done. Many Christians are like this. They might be busy in life but they are not busy for Jesus Christ. In short, they are not getting anything done that will last for eternity and which will result in God’s Church growing and being edified. Get off the easy chair and do something for the Lord.

b. Start being fiery

The expression “fervent in spirit” means to possess a spiritual fire and zeal in your heart that won’t be extinguished by the hardships that you are facing in life. We sometimes cry the blues, especially when we see our beloved country falling apart. However, remaining distraught and somber and being overtaken by the present situation in America will not keep the fiery spirit burning in your heart to serve the Lord and follow His will for your life.

The word “fervent” (zeo) in the Greek language was used to represent boiling water and the glowing of hot liquids. It was used to represent something that was very hot. May I ask you something; since the election have you been on fire for God? Have you been boiling over with love and compassion for Christ, serving the Lord, and reaching people for Christ? Tough times should not put out the flame in our hearts. Our zeal for living for Jesus should not wane with the difficult days that might lie ahead for Christians if President Obama does everything that he wants to do. In the midst of difficult days God can give a song in our hearts and fire in our soul to serve and love Him more.

c. Serve the Lord faithfully

When the text says “serving the Lord” means to be involved in the Lord’s work and ministry. It involves serving in the local church, giving, being used of God in many spiritual ways, and developing our unique gifts for the body of Christ. It involves winning people to Christ (evangelism), discipleship, reaching out to others, and becoming actively involved in strengthening the local church.

Here is some good advice. Don't allow the signs of the times to divert your attention away from the spiritual things that God wants you to do. Don't allow the world of politics and the temporary things of this life keep you from doing the eternal things. Don't be overcome by politics and miss out on serving the Lord. Don't forget to serve the Lord and do His bidding and will for your life, which involves evangelism (seeing souls saved) and serving in the local church, and reaching out to others. There is work to be done and there are victories to be won as His truth goes marching on!

Jesus is coming again! The time is nearing when the world will enter the climatic end as predicted by Jesus in Matthew 24 and as John taught in the Book of Revelation 6-19. The stage is being prepared for "end time" events to begin. Let us keep our eyes to the sky, our ears to the wind, listening for the trumpet sound, and live with eternity's values in view.

"Only one life, twill soon be past
Only what's done for Christ will last
Only once chance to do His will
So give to Jesus everyday
It's the only life the pays
When you recall you have but one life."