

Perfect Peace ~ Midweek Reflection # 30 ~ New Years 2009

“You will keep in [perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.”
~Isaiah 26:3

I woke up from an afternoon nap a few weeks ago with the words and the tune of a favorite hymn running through my head. It was Frances R. Havergal’s “Like A River Glorious: (# 40 in the old Inter Varsity Hymnal):

“Like a river glorious is God’s perfect peace,
Over all victorious in its bright increase;
Perfect, yet it floweth fuller every day,
Perfect, yet it groweth deeper all the way.
Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest
Finding as He promised perfect peace and rest.

Hidden in the hollow of His blessed hand,
Never foe can follow, never traitor stand;
Not a surge of worry, not a shade of care,
Not a blast of hurry touch the spirit there.

Every joy or trial falleth from above,
Traced upon our dial by the Sun of love;
We may trust Him fully, all for us to do ~
They who trust Him wholly find Him wholly true.”

~ Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879)

I have spent much time over the past few weeks singing and praying Havergal’s song of trust and confidence in God’s deep peace. Throughout the past nine months of my illness, riding the roller-coaster of emotions and stumbling through the inconsistencies of my own imaginings, I have found God’s river of peace one of the constants. To know

and experience the deeper current of God's presence, comfort and love has kept my heart steady. I am so grateful for the scriptures and hymns of the faith that remind me of God's many promises and lead me to the river's edge.

I continue to pray these words from Stephen Mitchell's adaptation of Psalm 84: "Take me home, Lord; guide me to the place of perfect repose. Let me feel you always within me; open my eyes to your love.

Happy are those who trust you and merge their will in your will. They let go of all desires and give up everything they know, until they finally enter the inmost temple of the heart, where there is no self, no other, nothing, but only you."

Under God's Mercy,

Howie