

The Current of God's Love ~ Midweek Reflection # 42 April 1st, 2009

"O the deep, deep love of Jesus. vast unmeasured, boundless, free;

Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me. Underneath me, all around me, Is the current of Thy love; Leading onward. leading home-ward, To my glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, Spread His praise from shore to shore; How He loveth, ever loveth, Changest never, never more; How He watches o'er His loved ones,

Died to call them all His own; How for them He intercedeth, Watches o'er them from the throne.

( O the deep, deep love of Jesus, Love of every love the best; 'Tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'Tis a haven sweet of rest, O the deep, deep love of Jesus, 'Tis a Heav'n of Heav'n's to me; And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to Thee."

(O the deep, deep love of Jesus, Trevor Francis, T.J. Williams, Hymns, The Hymnal of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, Compiled and edited by Paul Beckwith, Inter-Varsity Press, Chicago, 1947 )

Another sacred memory that rose out of my subconscious mind during the small hours of the night and restored the "joy of my salvation" during a moment of need. We used to sing from this hymnal at our Young Life regional leaderships and staff gatherings in Philadelphia and in New England from the sixties through the eighties. I have never been a part of more joyful worship experiences than those times of alternating the acappella singing of these hymns and sharing our lives and prayer for one another. Nor can I think of any other times when I was as certain of Christ's real presence with me.

Those shared experiences of worship and prayer were a gift of God to all of us who enjoyed them. Like an epiphany, even a "transfiguration" these were events which can remind us of God's grace and call us to faithfully move on trusting the One who has called us to follow Him. Not moments to hold on to or stay in but moments of bright insight and brilliant truth which can show us the way when things are dark and God's way is uncertain or our confidence and faith grow dim in the face of difficulties.

“Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim You, who walk in the light of Your presence. They rejoice in Your name all day long. They exult in Your righteousness.”

( Psalm 89:15,16 NIV )

May we all learn many ways to acclaim God’s love, God’s name, and God’s righteousness as we serve Him and care for His people through this week.

Under God’s Mercy.

Howie