

Work, Peace, and Spiders

As is my frequent Sunday morning habit, early on March 25, 2007 I was walking on the wooded shore paths at nearby Lake Needwood. I was thinking and praying about the pressures at work – a major recompetete proposal to lead, as well as relationships which need to be maintained with staff, suppliers, and the customer. Without God, I would be a worrier, and I was dealing with worry this morning in my prayer time with God.

It was a nice, cool, bright sunny morning about one hour past dawn as I neared my favorite part of the walk – a high area overlooking the lake. God spoke to me in that still quiet voice. “Do you believe that I love you?” Yes, I thought. “Do you believe that I care for you?” Yes. “Do you believe that I will carry you through?” Yes. “Then, be at peace, be at peace, be at peace.”

I thought about what God had said, and my mind turned to my favorite scripture, long ago committed to memory, *“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs and don’t forget to thank him for his answers. If you do this you will experience God’s peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 4:6-7 TLB).

I turned to continue my return trip along the wooded lake shore path. The still small voice said, “Turn left.” I left the path and walked through the woods down towards the lake shore about 50 yards away. There I saw something I never would have seen from the beaten path. Everywhere, the bare, not yet budding tree branches were adorned with brilliantly sparkling water droplets. Spider webs spread from branch to branch and glistened with moisture reflecting the light from the perfect low angle of the early morning sun. I praised God for his attention to detail – the meteorological cycle, and yes, even the spiders. The spiders have to eat, too.

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid” (John 14:27 NIV).

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for your peace, your peace that is far more than wonderful than I can understand. Forgive me for worrying so much. I know that you love me, that you care for me, and that you will carry me through. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

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