

MCD Just Checking In 6/01/2007 **Get a Grip!**

Psalm 39:12 “Hear my prayer, O Lord... for I am a stranger with You...”

1 Sam 23:16 “Jonathan strengthened his (David’s) grip on God” (paraphrase)

A phrase I heard frequently a couple of decades back was “get a grip, will ya?” It was usually aimed at people who were in panic mode, fearful, imagining all kinds of potential calamity.

I have been moving a lot of furniture recently, and again, this whole matter of “getting a solid grip” was mentioned more than once, along with the more sinister “hold it, I’m losing my grip.”

We all “lose our grip” once in a while. Life tends to get heavy for all of us from time to time. (Gal 6) Whether it’s physical, spiritual, mental or emotional, most of us get sweaty palms and a slippery grip at times. What do you do to “get a grip” once again?

First, stop and realize that your security is not dependent on your grip, but on the grip of the One whose grip never slips. John 10:28-29 “neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand” no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand. The double grip of omnipotence reminds us that our souls are secure, even if our grip isn’t.

Second, take advantage of others whom God has sent to strengthen your grip on himself. Paul had Barnabas and Epaphroditus, Timothy had Paul, David had Jonathan. Each of these relationships included partings, but they were still precious and powerful and enduring in their effect. Jonathan was a unique friend who could always help David regain his spiritual perspective, his certainty about God’s promised purpose and his grip on God. If God has provided you such friends, then take advantage of the opportunities to strengthen each other in God. If God hasn’t provided you such a friend, be one! You will find that in strengthening others, you yourself will be strengthened.

There are those who are ready and willing to listen, pray, and encourage you in God. They may be in your family, on your team, in your church back home, or in the home office. Sometimes the remedy starts with simply admitting the grip is slipping. And if your grip is strong today, look for an opportunity to strengthen someone else’s grip on God. God has placed us in the body because we need each other.

Third, lift your weary hands to God in a lengthy time of honest prayer. Pray His promises back to Him confessing your needs and His sufficiency. Psalm 130, Psalm 46, and Isaiah 40 are some of my favorite passages to read aloud and then pray back to the Father.

For further study: Isaiah 44; Romans 8; Psalm 18 Discover again the attributes, promises, names and purposes of your God. Our grip grows stronger as our vision becomes clearer of the One who holds us fast.

“Lord, sometimes I feel the load is just too heavy for my feeble grip. Then there are those other times I just won’t admit my grip is slipping and my faith is weak. Thank you, O God, for your omnipotent yet gentle grip that secures me forever and ever. Strengthen my grip on you today. Remove my fear, my doubts, and my discouragement. Strengthen my grip on your promise to be faithful to me. Strengthen my grip on your purpose to make me more like you through weakness. Strengthen my grip on your power so that I rely on You, and not myself. You are my strength and my song. You are worthy of all my praise and confidence. Thank you for your endless grip of grace on my life. Help me to strengthen someone else’s grip on you today.

Remember, we love you and are praying for you continually. Adios, Ron & Val

FYI: I am memorizing Matt 12 this month. I’ve been spending much time in the gospels listening to the words of our Lord. “Never a man spoke like this man!” I figured if I am to obey all He commanded and teach others to do so, (Matt 28:19-20) I need to listen carefully and apply personally. Pray for me as I will be speaking twice to potential medical personnel next week, and also several other gatherings this month locally. Thanks!