

Adversity Was Sent to Be Your Friend

I heard someone utter a profound statement that caused me to cry out to God once again; Jesus, surely no more: “*adversity was sent to be your best friend*”. I found myself in tears saying yes Lord to your will, I am willing to be willing, but the struggle can be so fierce. I am praising, not complaining believe me. When you know the Word to put against the thoughts, sometimes even the thoughts get to you, just because. I had a vision regarding chairs and God has been building upon it all week, so I would like to share it.

In the course of this vision I saw a strange but strangely beautiful chair. The chair was rather high and obviously old but was made of the prettiest wood I have ever seen. The closest I can come to it in color is a soft pecan color. The chair had a very small hard back, and the seat wasn't very wide, and there was no cushion of any sort. Along side of it was my lounge chair, soft, plush, inviting, able to recline at the snap of a button and to the left was my work seat. There have been times in my busyness I had gone straight from my work seat to the recliner, thinking I deserved to indulge myself and there were times I stayed so long in the work seat, it was all I could do to get to the lounge for a time. I didn't realize I had passed the seat in the forefront, but I had. In my looking for comfort I had missed the one in front. In my wanting to take a backseat in many areas I had missed using the voice I was given. I cried out Lord; I'm not trying to measure, but you know I am not the only one who has bypassed that seat, and it really isn't very comfortable. This is what I got:

Comfort has never been God's concern. Jesus is seated at the right hand of God making intercession for us. We have been bought with a price and now are seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus, but as spirit beings living in this earthly realm we have a seat here on earth as well and the distinction is made according to the seat we so often choose.

The work seat is a necessity for many but it was never designed to be the end all or anyone's God or even their total provision – God is the all and all and the one who provides. Placement in this seat is to make a distinct difference in the work place to bring His glory, honor and light to an environment that may have none or little. It is a place to show others that living the life in faith, belief and trust really is the ultimate life and that God is really God and he loves totally.

The lounge is a wonderful place to commune with God and lift up others. To bring the ones to remembrance and to repent and offer up forgiveness and a place to understand that even here we have the opportunity to release others to God. Take their hurts, wounds and healing to Him, not us. But, our lives are not to rock as the recliner rocks. We are to be distinctive by being steady and firm in all ways as we grow in HIM.

Both of these chairs need to be consecrated for the use of the Lord, which will make a distinct difference in their use for us.

Now on to that center chair: The center chair is not a chair of comfort, it isn't even a chair of beauty to the world. It was never designed to sit comfortably, it was designed to

encourage our movements to stand up and proclaim, to stand up and retrieve, to stand up and make known. It was designed to encourage us to give an answer for our hope and be willing to voice the word in season and out; to correct wrongs. It was designed to combat facts that often are not truth with the real truth. The back of this chair is shortened and the seat is raised above the floor so that our feet may not touch. There are times we feel insecure but it is to remember our security is in Him, and not ourselves. It is a reminder that God is the only stabilizing force in our lives, because He is our strength, our shield, our strong tower, our hope, our joy, our peace and our all. He is Sovereign. The things we are called to do may be invisible to our sight or even seem impossible but they were never designed to be done in our strength; it is not by power, nor by might, but by the Spirit of the Lord. Our balance is in Him. Our feet are to be planted in Him not the world, because although we are in the world we are not of this world.

So, we may change our seat if we choose, but hopefully we make right choices for the only reason; God. Left alone, the work chair and the lounge have wonderful purposes but we must be careful that in our comfort zone of work and in our comfort zone at home or anywhere else, we are not in a comfort zone of compromise or compliance. We have to be careful that our seat has not become one of selfishness or passivity because when one gets that comfortable the opportunity is greater to compromise and not speak up when wrongs occur. Commitment causes one to remember we have been given words that bring a change and even if not accepted by others at the very least a deposit has been made in their lives.

There is a distinction made in that hard seat in the middle. It will allow rest, but it is designed for short term use only. It is designed to allow a person to lift up easily and plant their feet squarely and maintain a warrior stance. This is the seat of commitment. A seat that doesn't turn around, doesn't roll back, doesn't rock, and doesn't swivel. It faces forward at all times: it allows us to forget those things which are behind and reach forward for that which is ahead. It is a seat that will provide a distinction to the world because the one who takes it will be trusted to speak what thus sayeth the Lord. They will be trusted to say Yes or No according to the Word of God. They will be heard because life and death really are in the power of the tongue. In order to make the other seats less comfortable and no longer a comfort zone of any sort, adversity often comes to help us grow and realize the only safe, comfortable place is in God. Because even what may feel uncomfortable at times is a stretching to maturity and is always covered and protected by the blood for those belonging to the King.

So in this time of distinctions, I realize we are strategically placed in our homes, communities, city, county, and states. We have been born for this time and this season in what the world calls economic depression and despite anything, we know we are truly a rich people, called into a changing environment to bring great fruit in what many may see as dry ground while God is watering the body through the word every day.

In reality, that seat of commitment is looking more and more like the cross and it reminds me adversity really does have its purpose.