

You Make Your Own Luck

by
Joel Stephen Williams

*The heights by great men reached
and kept*

Were not attained by sudden flight,

*But they, while their companions
slept,*

Were toiling upward in the night.

- William Wordsworth

Quite a few years ago my mother had obtained her real estate license and was enjoying selling houses. One afternoon she was doing an open house. As I remember, it was a pretty slow afternoon with only a few home shoppers stopping by. One, though, was a woman who was recently widowed. She had the cash in hand to purchase the house in full, if she chose that route. She liked the house and my mother made a sale that afternoon. My mother spoke of her “luck” in making that sale. A friend of the family who was also in real estate told her: “You make your own luck most of the time. If you hadn’t had that open house, you wouldn’t have made that sale to her.”

That is true of life in general. Sometimes we are the recipients of good fortune. Other times we are the recipients of bad fortune. Most of the time we get exactly what we deserve based on how hard we have worked. I remember Dr. Jack Lewis talking about a student who came

to him and complained about a “C” grade on a test. He asked: “Why did I get a C on this test?” Lewis replied: “Because you gave C answers.” I understand how brother Lewis felt. As a teacher I often give students a little bit higher grade than they deserve, but I seriously doubt that I have ever given them lower grades than they deserved.

If we did not prepare properly for judgment day and depended on luck, we would be very foolish people indeed. While we hope to receive a better fate than we deserve, we should not sit around idly and take God and his mercy for granted. As the old cliché says: “Work as if everything depends on yourself. Pray as if everything depends on God.” The maidens who made it into the wedding feast in one of Jesus’ parables were allowed inside not because they were lucky. They created their “luck” by being prepared. “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour” (Mt. 25:13).

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rounding the city, he became afraid and asked what they could do. After Elisha’s prayer, his eyes were opened so that he saw the mountain full of horses and fiery chariots surrounding Elisha (1 Kings 6:14-17). God let the servant see into His invisible realm.

God’s spiritual realm envelops ours, thus His realm and ours are not remotely separate.

Meaning to Us

What does where our God is mean to us? What effect should this have on our lives?

We should realize that nothing escapes God’s notice (Heb. 4:13) for we are not outside His invisible realm. He sees everything we do without our seeing Him or realizing He is near. He knows our suc-

cesses and failures, our virtues and our sins, and our service or lack of service.

We can have confidence that He can hear our prayers because He is not in a removed and far off distant heaven.

Our lives should be circumspect for God always understands what we are doing.

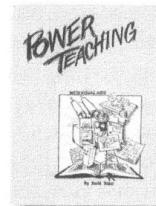
God knows our struggles and needs in life. He is able and willing to help us.

Summary

Our God is present as our helper, our strength, and our shield. He is in His invisible spiritual realm that surrounds us and that engulfs our physical realm. Because of this He can know and supply our needs if we walk uprightly with Him. (Psa. 84:10).

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