

meditating in His Word and by praying. And in what direction are our eyes focused? Are they looking vertically (upward) toward our redemption? or in a lateral direction to all the negative things that are supposed to be coming on the earth?

In Exodus 33:2–3 the Lord told Moses, *"And I will send an angel before thee; and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite: Unto a land flowing with milk and honey: for I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a stiffnecked people: lest I consume thee in the way."*

These indeed were evil tidings – that the Lord would not go up with the children of Israel. Not having the presence of the Lord is the one thing in the Scriptures that we are to fear; we need and must have His presence.

Moses was very concerned about this situation. Note his words in verses 12 and 13: *"And Moses said unto the LORD, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me, Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight. Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may*

*find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people."*

Then in verse 14 the Lord said the greatest thing He could have said to Moses: *"And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest."*

The only way for us to have rest and comfort in these times – the only way for us to be free from fear, agitation, upsetness and internal turmoil – is to have the presence of the Lord with us. Do we believe that His presence will be with us? Do we believe that His presence will take us through? Do we believe that His Spirit will minister to us of His comfort, strength and hope?

Moses said further in verse 15: *"If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence."* Moses knew the secret. If the presence of the Lord is with us, we have nothing to fear; for if God is with us, who can be against us?

*Psalms* 112 contains beautiful verses that should reinforce what we have stated. It speaks of the man who is blessed of the Lord, saying in verses 7 and 8, *"He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD. His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies."*

When our heart is fixed and established, we have that sure founda-

tion which was mentioned earlier, and we are not looking around for another foundation or for another solution to the problem. We are putting the situation completely in God's hands and trusting completely in His presence with us to take us through. He will take the nation through the same way.

*Proverbs* 1:33 states, *"But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil."*

How do we hearken unto the Lord? Again, we go back to the Word, for the Word builds faith. Keep reading the Scriptures until you find the promises that give peace and comfort and assurance.

*Proverbs* 3:25–26: *"Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh. For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken."* Note that this passage speaks of the "desolation of the wicked"; the righteous will not be taken in this desolation.

The book of *Deuteronomy* tells us how the Lord brought the Israelites through the wilderness for forty years without lack of food – in fact, we are told that neither their shoes nor their clothing wore out in that time period. The Lord has kept me longer than forty years and provided all my needs over

and above what I have ever expected Him to do for me; and this is the testimony of millions. This is not because of our righteousness or goodness, but because He loves us and pours out the blessings. I believe the Lord will continue to take us through – as individuals, as families, as a church, and as a nation.

*II Timothy* 1:7 tells us that God has *"not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."* A spirit of fear does not come from the Lord, but from the Enemy. The Lord gives us the spirit of faith.

We who live in America have been blessed beyond measure by the hand of God. Our national redemption was provided at Calvary, and it is solely because of Calvary that we have the blessings we enjoy. But because there are numerous tares among the wheat and because the tares are so prominent, there are those who believe that America is scheduled for destruction rather than for deliverance.

This type of message produces and feeds the fearful heart. It does not build faith, nor does it encourage the wheat to lift up its head. There is neither joy nor peace to the heart which is looking for total destruction.

However, the Lord's message to His followers, even through that