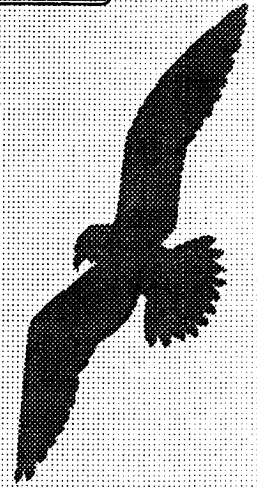


*'They shall
mount up...*

ON EAGLES' WINGS

*... with wings
as eagles.'*
Isaiah 40:31



AERY NUGGETS

THIS MOMENT

He's helping me now this moment,
Though I may not see nor hear,
Perhaps by a friend far distant,
Perhaps by a stranger near.
Perhaps by a printed message,
Perhaps by a spoken word.
In ways that I know and know not,
I have the help of the Lord.

He's keeping me now this moment,
However I need it most.
Perhaps by a single angel,
Perhaps by a mighty host.
Perhaps by the chain that's fretsome
Or the wall that keeps me in.
In ways that I know and know not,
He keeps me from harm and sin.

He's guiding me now this moment,
In paths that are easy or hard.
Perhaps by a door wide open,
Perhaps by a door fast barred.
Perhaps by a joy withholden,
Perhaps by a gladness given.
In ways that I know and know not,
He's leading me up to heaven.

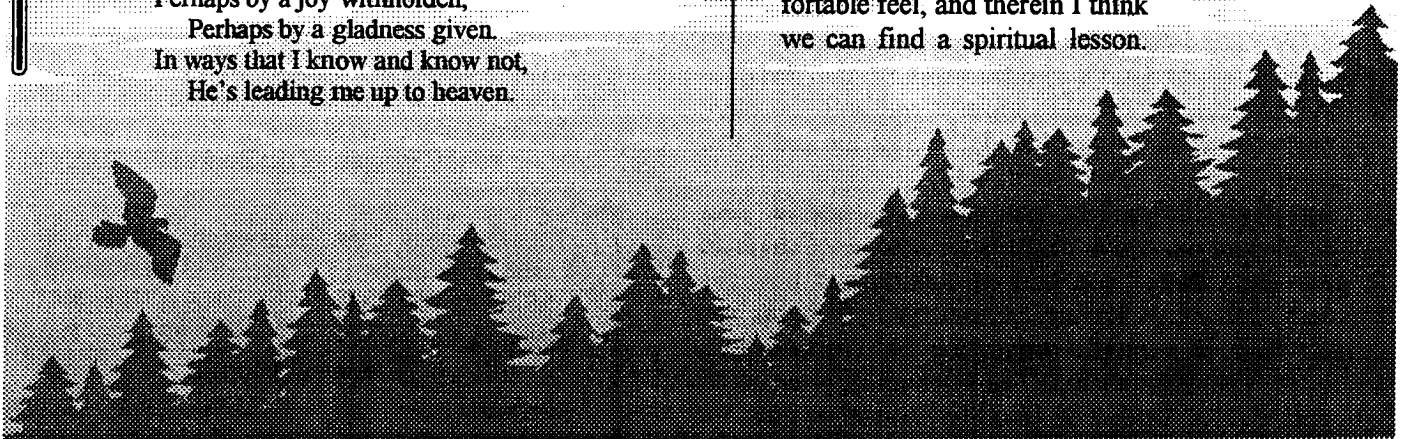
He's using me now this moment,
Whither I go or stand.
Perhaps by a plan accomplished,
Perhaps when He stays my hand.
Perhaps by a word in season,
Perhaps by a silent prayer.
In ways that I know and know not,
His labor of love I share.

—(Author Unknown)

Dear Plan Displayers,

With the advent of High School graduations, I was invited to a celebration in honor of four graduates, who were all cousins. For the occasion, though a conservative "almost an octogenarian", I opted to wear a tee shirt with a surrealistic figure front and back, for the comments it might provoke. After its first time wearing, this shirt had lain in its drawer for probably eight years without being worn, as its images seemed incongruous to my character. Needless to say, there were comments, though not adverse.

The second wearing of this special shirt made me realize that the background, upon which these two figures were emblazoned, had a very comfortable feel, and therein I think we can find a spiritual lesson.



There are many things we deem unpleasant, over which we have no control, and when coming into our lives affect our thinking or actions. This we call providence and most times we chafe under the obstacles placed in our way, until we can accept them as Divine providence.

Coming to the realization that God has been hemming us in to direct our steps into His unrealized path for us until such time as His Spirit and His word have our attention, makes us value what has gone before. Hebrews 12:9 – 11 seems to cover this situation nicely. “We have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us. . . For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he (God) for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.”

I believe the word, “exercised” is a very important word in connection with providential things, for nothing happens to the believer by chance, but God has a very definite intent in them, and when their purpose is entered into, they will have a comfortable feel, just like my shirt.

While all of the graduates have been given a measure of acquaintance with God’s word, none of them have the full assurance of God’s plans for their lives, but they can rest assured that definite plans have been formed long before they were born.

Consider the words of the One who notes the fall of the insignificant sparrow as He addresses Jeremiah with these words, “Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations” (Jer. 1:4). While we are not informed as to how old Jeremiah was when he became aware of God’s plan for his life, or what he had been going through, we can imagine that God had been grooming him in unknown ways for the responsibilities which were to be given him. Of course being brought up in the priestly family gave him an acquaintanceship with God.

Reviewing the lives of some of God’s notable servants, we see that their lives and livelihoods in a measure providentially prepared them for their future work. Moses, David and Amos were taken as they followed the flocks (Ex. 3:1; 1 Sam. 16:11; Amos 7:15), making them able shepherds of God’s sheep. Most of the disciples were taken from the fishing industry, and only the catch was changed, when the Lord said, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men” (Matt. 4:19).

For my older readers, can you look back on your earlier life and recognize benefits from some of the hard to understand things you had to endure, and now see blessing in them, as having directed your thoughts and steps? Paul, in a simple prayer for the Thessalonians, voiced the desire for them, “The Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for

Christ” (2 Thes. 3:5). Even this noted apostle did not always have a plain path before him for he wrote, “Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ. direct our way unto you”. (1 Thes 3:11).

As we saw in connection with Jeremiah, that God had plans for him before his conception, we also read of His pre creation plans for those of us who would put our trust in the finished work of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. “According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love” (Eph. 1:4).

God in His love for man is, “Not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9), and so the Lord Jesus could say while on earth, “My Father worketh hitherto, and I work” (John 5:17). Once our eyes and hearts have been turned to Him, God desires to be able to guide us with His eye (requiring our close attention) and so warns, “Be not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle” (Ps. 32:8,9).

Doesn’t the bit and bridle make us think of the dependence on or need for providential circumstances from which to derive our guidance rather than from the Word of God and wisdom granted from above. Let us not lose sight of the fact, that though we were born in time, we were planned for in eternity past, and will live with Him through the eternity to come.

Your fellow plan explorer,
Leslie L. Winters

(Comment on Providence)

“The things that are done on the earth He doeth them Himself. He prepares all beforehand when nothing is as yet apparent to man.

But, although providence responds to faith, and acts in order to accomplish God’s purposes, and control the walk of His children, it is not the guide of faith, although it is made so sometimes by believers who are wanting in clearness of light. Moses’ faith is seen in his giving up, when grown to age. all the advantages of the position in which God had set him by His providence. Providence may, and often does, give that which forms, in many respects, the servants of God for their work. as vessels; but cannot be their power in the work. These two things must not be confounded. It gives that, the giving up of which is a testimony of the reality of faith and of the power of God which operates in the soul. It is given that it may be given up. This is part of the preparation.” Exodus 1 & 2

From Synopsis of the Books of the Bible by J.N.D.

For address correction or free new name addition, write to:
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