



she loves

Devotional
December 18, 2009

MOVING THE MOUNTAIN, by Edna Harms

My prayer list was growing. Family concerns weighed heavily on me. Agonizing prayer followed. When precious friends shared a difficulty I sighed inwardly and said to myself, "one more for my prayer list!" The burden was heavy and growing. I could not take it. Sleep was fleeing; stress growing and then I woke up to my own exhortation to others when they faced deep problems.

"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

What does "cast" mean in a practical sense? Webster's Dictionary puts it this way: throw off, fling. How could I just throw off the burden that clung so close to my heart? I hurt so deeply for each member of my family and my friends who were going through tough times. I needed to do something--pray harder!

That night lying in bed, I visualized myself caring a huge bag, determined to carry it by myself. I could see my husband gently offering to carry it for me while I stubbornly resisted, because I had to prove something to myself. I could do it! I was strong enough! It was my duty to do it!

It was the Lord that was lovingly extending His arms toward me saying, "Cast all your cares on Me because I do care for you." How stupid could I be! I knew that verse. I hand it out to others constantly! Now it was a word from the Lord to me.

What could I do but admit my folly and say, "God, I choose to let you carry my burden. I cannot carry it any longer. I need rest." Immediately the load was lifted. What a relief! What peace filled my soul! How I rested that night! This is a new lesson to a habitual "worry-wart". The problems are still there. Daily I am learning to take each care to Him immediately, and not let my prayer list grow. I know He alone can solve problems, so why not believe Him?

This experience reminded me of a "parable" written by an unknown author I'm sure would not mind my sharing it with you. Perhaps it can help you visualize our struggle.

"A man was sleeping at night in his cabin when suddenly his room filled with light and God said to him He had work for him to do. Pointing to a large rock in front of his cabin He explained that he should push against the rock with all his might. For many years he toiled from sun up to sun down, his shoulders set squarely against the cold, massive surface of the unmoving rock, pushing with all of his might. Each night, the man returned to his cabin sore and worn out. Feeling that his whole day had been spent in vain, he was sure he was a failure!

Since the man was showing discouragement, the Adversary decided to enter the picture by placing thoughts into the weary mind: "You have been pushing against that rock for a long time, and it hasn't moved. Why kill yourself over this? Just put in your time. Give the minimum effort, and that is good enough."

The weary man was tempted to follow this advice but first he prayed, "Lord", he said, "I have labored long and hard in your service, putting all my strength to that which you have asked. Yet, after all this time, I have not even budged that rock by half a millimeter. What is wrong? Why am I failing?" The Lord responded compassionately, "My child, when I asked you to serve Me and you accepted, I told you that your task was to push against the rock with all of your strength, which you have done. You think you failed. Look at yourself. Through opposition you have grown much stronger and

your abilities have increased. True you haven't moved the rock. But your calling was to push against that rock with all of your strength. I did not expect you to move the rock. Now please step aside, I will move the rock."

Dear friends, let us stop and listen clearly to God's order. Yes, exercise the faith that moves mountains, but remember that it is God who moves the mountain. Only when we cast our cares on Him will we experience that rest of soul that enables us to "push again."

Blessings, on behalf of the Northview Women's Commission,

Edna Harms
Discipleship



Northview
COMMUNITY CHURCH

9 Northview Community Church
Downes Rd Abbotsford BC V4X 1X5
: (604) 853-2931 Fax: (604) 853-9921
al Info E-mail: northview@northview.org