

Break Free...

*A Thought for the Week From Patrick Kemper at
No Strongholds Ministries*

Week 13

Just Plop!

Romans 1:17 (TLB)

This Good News tells us that God makes us ready for heaven—makes us right in God's sight—when we put our faith and trust in Christ to save us. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scripture says it, "The man who finds life will find it through trusting God."

If I've listened to it once, I've listened to it 50 times, but this morning in my worship time, recording artist Jeff Deyo got me thinking as he recalled some attributes of God. "You move kings and kingdoms, You restore my soul..."

There was a time when this was a problem for me.

The chasm between the two attributes was too far for me to traverse; I couldn't reconcile them, together, at the same time. I found myself easily acknowledging He was *capable* of addressing each of those truths, individually, but hit a snag when attempting to place both in the same mental container. I believed He could do both, but I struggled with getting the lid to fit over the part where He would have time (or be interested) to pay attention to the details of my life (seeing how there were kingdoms in distress...).

How could I get the thought process to move from, "Yes, I believe... You move kings and kingdoms, You restore my soul," to how (or better yet, why?) would He bother taking time to be concerned (or involved) with me and my tiny, insignificant life?

On one hand there is God - omniscient and omnipotent - and then there's... me.

Why would He? How could He? Isn't that just a bit much to bite off with any *real conviction*?

But what if He would? What if He does?

The truth regarding the ability of a chair (the one in which I am currently sitting will do just fine) to hold my weight is not diminished by my lack of faith that it can. I merely need to plop my butt into it and let my feet receive the benefits of the truth that it will.

... receive the benefits of the truth that it will... hmmm.

I mentioned that God is omniscient and omnipotent. Why is it so easy to forget that God is also omnipresent? And what happened to the picture of God as a Father, dotting over His child... longing to be gracious?

I can walk around the kitchen, chewing on my fingernails worrying, wondering and contemplating the possibility that I just might be able to sit in that chair, and it just might hold me so I don't have to stand on my own two feet anymore...

... or I can live as though it does, it can, and plop into it *receiving the benefits of the truth* that it will.

God is perpetually powerful, majestically meticulous, giddy to give grace and clothed in compassion. If, mentally, we are able to acknowledge that omniscience, omnipotence and omnipresence are characteristics of God, then why is it our tendency to *live* (in the realms of emotion and faith) as though they are not?

Application

Isaiah 30:18 (NIV)

¹⁸ Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!

We forget that God is not only capable, but *longs* to interact and help us. We serve a God who *is* omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent. This is truth. These facts are immutable.

But, independent as we are, we tie His hands, anchor His feet and stop up the flow of His wisdom when our faith never makes it past our brains. Instead of just burying the truth we have come to accept about God (how He does move kings and kingdoms, He does take joy in restoring our souls) deep in our back pockets, we need to put shoes on the theory and give it a shove.

What could God do in you (and through you) if you lived and acted and responded to the issues of life by plopping into His lap *in all things*?

May you be willing to not just acknowledge that God is interested to hold you, help you, rescue you and lead you, but courageous enough to plop... and receive the benefits of the truth that He will.

“You are God! You move kings and kingdoms; You restore my soul.”¹ You are interested in the smallest of details in every minute of every day...

¹ *You Are God*, Jeff Deyo, Indelible Creative Group (ICG) / Word Distribution, 2007

Homework for the Week...

1.) Do you struggle with believing God is not only capable of moving kings and kingdoms, but motivated to restore your soul? Rate yourself 1-10 for your ability to “plop” in this truth. State whether or not you feel you need improvement in this area. If “plopping” is not your forte, make a commitment (in your own writing) that you are going to intentionally focus on believing and trusting God... and receive the benefit of the truth this week. Ask God for opportunities to practice. Who can you contact to help you?

2.) Mid-week check. List the opportunities you have had to “plop” and how you responded. If you are still posting a doughnut, more than likely you weren’t all that truthful when you asked God for chances to respond and improve. Check your heart; be authentic. Ask God to show you the way through what is blocking you from submitting in obedience.

3.) How are you doing compared to the way you started the week? If you still need improvement, refuse to move on to the next session. Stay here, submit, and choose to be obedient no matter what it takes. Explain how you have improved, or make a commitment to continue working. When you are operating in obedience in this area of your life... turn the page and move to the next session.
