

KATRINA'S JOURNEY TO FIND GOD

Part Two

The evening found Katrina sitting by the window in the rocking chair that she used when reading and praying. The gentle rhythm—the slow, steady motion—brought her comfort. The slight squeak of the rocker brought her back to reality when confused thoughts tried to push her into the shadowy darkness of painful memories.

Had it only been a few days since Pastor Patterson had spoke on God's love? Her mind was still unable to comprehend God's truth that He loved her; that He was asking her to open her hearts' door so He could come in. "Why is God's love so hard to believe— so difficult for me to accept?" she whispered softly. The answers kept evading her, so closing her Bible; she made her way downstairs to help prepare dinner.

In the middle of the night Katrina had another nightmare. She dreaded them, but was utterly unable to stop them from invading her dreams. Her nightmares were always the same—someone was trying to kill her—death—ready to claim her. She awoke terrified; her scream rent the air. Would she ever get over her fear of death? Tears filled her eyes and she began to tremble as the darkness pressed round about her. The next day she continued to feel the after affects of her horrible night; fear stayed with her hours after the sun was high in the sky.

Not only was she struggling with her dilemma regarding the service last Sunday and what to do with God's love, now she had to contend with the terrifying nightmares again. Much to her relief, Katrina had slept peacefully several nights after Sunday's service without the reoccurrence of nightmares. She even thought—hoped—that they perhaps had ended, but they were back and worst than before.

Katrina's friend Anne came to visit the next day after Katina had suffered an extremely difficult—sleepless night due to another nightmare. Anne noticed immediately the distress in her eyes, the pinched look around her mouth and the weariness in her face. Startled she asked, "What in the world is the matter with you Katrina—you look like death warmed over? What happened to you last night?" Anne had spent yesterday shopping with Katrina; they shared a wonderful lunch and both had been in good spirits.

Katrina quietly told Anne about her fear of death and the nightmares. Then, much to her surprise, Katrina found herself sharing about last Sunday's service—how confused she felt about God's love. Anne listened intently never taking her eyes off Katrina's pale face. She watched tears slid down her cheeks. Joining hands Anne prayed, "Oh Father, please give me wisdom to talk to my friend, Katrina. Give me words of comfort and help me to share You in a way that she will open her heart to accept You. Father, be Katrina's true source of help and comfort. She needs You this very moment."

“Katrina.” Something in Anne’s voice brought her back to reality and pulled her out of her miserable state. Anne had her full attention. She shared with Katrina that she too had suffered with nightmares in the past. And fear of dying had tormented her until she realized that death didn’t matter, because if she died she knew where she would spend eternity. She would immediately be with her loving Father. Anne said, “When I accepted Jesus into my heart, He filled me with such peace and I felt secure in my soul. And Katrina, when I ask Him to take away my fears and the nightmares—He did.”

“Katrina,” Anne asked, “If you died tonight do you know where you would spend eternity?”

“I don’t know,” Katrina whispered as tears again welled up in her eyes.

“Katrina,” Anne spoke her name softly, “All you have to do is believe in God’s love that pastor spoke about in the Sunday service. Remember, what he said? ‘All you have to do is believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.’ God is only a cry away and if you call out to Him, He will answer. He loves you just the way you are and wants to be your Lord and Savior.”

“Oh Anne, how do I do that? What should I say, I am so confused. I’ve never talked to God before, please help me.”

Anne’s heart was breaking as she saw the struggle on Katrina’s face and heard the desperation in her voice. She gently gathered Katrina into her arms and said, “Simply pray and tell God that you know of your sins and ask Him to come into your heart and cleanse it. Tell Him that you believe Jesus died for your sins and that as you confess your sins, you will trust Him for your eternal salvation. Tell Him you are ready to become His child.”

Katrina bowed her head and through her tears softly said, “I believe that You God, sent Your Son, Jesus to die upon the cross for my sins. Oh Jesus, I do believe in You. Please fill the empty place in me. I’ve been so lonely and scared. Please cover me with Your mercy and let me find peace in You. I need You Lord, and I do open my heart to You and ask that You come in and stay with me. Thank You sending Anne to me today to help me understand Your love. Thank You for coming into my life. Thank You for loving me. Amen

Both girls were crying tears of joy as they held each other tightly. Katrina felt lightness in her spirit. Jesus had done it; He had come into her heart. He had filled her with peace and joy. Tears of thanksgiving streamed down Katrina’s face. “Oh Anne, the heaviness is gone, my heart feels so much lighter. Is this what it feels like to become a child of God? If so, I am more than ready to embrace my new life in Him.”

Finally, Anne had to leave; both girls hugged again. Katrina grinning from ear to ear thanked her for coming and as the door shut she quickly ran to her room; her time with Jesus was just beginning.