

Dear Friend,

### **Ok! So I'm Transitioning, But Where is Jesus?**

We had quite a few comments over last month's article about being in a time of change/shift/*transitioning*. It was really quite interesting to hear how so many of you feel, pretty much like we do, that the present transitional phase we are currently in has seemingly gone on for----ev----er. A couple of friends have shared with me some interesting things about their current transitional phase. One is that God seems very close to them but He isn't really saying much or that God doesn't seem close at all and yet they feel that in some way He is close. Yet each one felt that God had led them into this current transitional stage and will see them through it. They feel very confident about the nearness of God even in the midst of all the trials they are experiencing. Though in the beginning they, like Snoopy in the comic strip below, really didn't know all the troubles that were before them.



### **He's Either In The Boat!**

When they shared their stories with me God led me to two places in scripture. One is the story of Jesus and his disciples found in Mark 4:35-41 where Jesus told his disciples to get into the boat because they were *transitioning* to the other side of the lake. As you know from the story a furious storm came up and it appeared the boat was going to be swamped. While all this was transpiring they found Jesus in the stern sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and asked, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" Of course we all know he cares and he said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" As I read this I got the idea that if God seems very close to you yet appears to be not saying anything to you right now he may just be taking a little nap. Look on the bright side, at least He's in boat!

### **Or He's Not In The Boat!**

The other story is found again in Mark this time a couple of chapters ahead in the 6th chapter verses 45-51. Here we find, once again, Jesus telling them to get into the boat but this time He wasn't going with them. As they were crossing over a wind had come up against them causing them to strain at the oars, tiring them and having them make little headway. The interesting part of this story is that Jesus sees the problem and instead of coming out to them and getting into the boat he walks on the water and almost passes them by. When they look up from their straining at the oars they see him and cry out. I know that they weren't really sure of what exactly they were seeing whether it was a ghost or what it was. I would like to give them the benefit of the doubt because they probably had never seen a man walk on water before so they weren't as confident as we would have been (tongue in cheek) of what was going on. Jesus had never come to them this way before. But when they cried out he came over, climbed in and the wind died down.

### **Who Told You To Get Into The Boat?**

Both of these stories contain some interesting facts about change/shift/*transitioning*. One is that in each case Jesus told them to get into the boat, now if he told you to get into the boat you can rest assured

that you are in the right place, at the right time and will arrive on the other side. Once they landed a change would be apparent but right now they were *transitioning* into that change by the journey that lay before them. The stories also tell us that it is not uncommon that opposition will come against you in the midst of the *transition*. Either in the form of a storm that appears to swamp you and all the hopes and dreams that God has given you or a wind will come upon you designed to tire and discourage you.

We must realize that whether Jesus is in the boat with us or is about to pass by us, we need to be alert to what is transpiring all around us. He told us to get into the boat, not one of his disciples told Jesus that they thought it was a good idea to transition to the other side of the lake, and because Jesus knows what is best for us we need to understand it was and still is His idea that we get into our boat and begin the *transition*. If it were left up to us we probably wouldn't have left in the first place.

Rather than wake Jesus up to speak to the storm of adversity that is coming against us maybe he is telling us to speak to the storm ourselves because not only is it coming against his anointed but his plan for our lives. Proverbs 21:30 *“There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD.”*

### **If He is not in the boat or on the water, then where is He?**

We need to have our eyes open all the time and not get into the methodical lulling action that rowing can become in our attempts to get to the other side by our own strength. It says that Jesus was on a mountainside and *“he saw the disciples straining at the oars.”* Since that is the case we need to lift our heads and not be afraid.

Psalm 121 says, *“I lift up my eyes to the hills— where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD watches over you— the LORD is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.”*



Maybe right now it may seem that the winds of adversity are blowing against you and the storms of life are threatening to swamp your boat. There are some things we need to do. First is not to be like Snoopy and wonder if leaving the tree was the right thing to do or not. So we need to recognize and have faith that this transitional season is from God and second is to stand to our feet, face the storm and say to it, **“Quiet! Be Still!”** Third, when the winds of adversity that bring discouragement and disillusionment are blowing we need to lift our heads and have the ‘eyes to see’ and the ‘ears to hear’ where our help comes from. He will come into our circumstance bringing His peace and renewing our strength as we keep our eyes focused on Him.

Keep looking up, all our love,

  
Rex & Lois

**Keys to Health & Wholeness School, Ontario, New York October 2nd—3rd  
&  
Fall Outreach to Philly, October 10th, Harrowgate Park**

