

SGN Scoops Feature for October 2015

By Dusty Wells

Wisdom From Wells

So here I am sitting in the busy Northwest terminal of the Detroit airport waiting for yet another delayed flight back to my sweet haven of rest, Nashville.... my home sweet home. I absolutely love to travel and I am thrilled that my job requires it often. But from time to time the delayed flights can be quite annoying after a grueling week, such as these past few days have been. I have learned (hmmmm...ok...well maybe...just maybe I am still learning.... Lord help me...) though that most always there is a “divine purpose” for the delay. I strive to always make the best out of the time, often times I will catch up on my reading, studying and writing.

This afternoon is one of those days that all of a sudden, I felt such an urgency to just sit down and write from the depth of my heart a simple lesson of life I learned many years ago, but it still is a daily prayer of mine, especially again as of late. I really want you to feel my spirit and catch a glimpse of where I have come from in my own life. As always, my prayer is that those of you that choose to read these blogs will find some little nugget of hope, a gentle peace, possible reassurance of love and truth, some type of feeling and challenge that will help comfort you as you are continuing to embark on your own journey. You see for the last several months, I have been working on, writing, meditating, and thinking of different chapters of my journey. Those landmarks of destiny, that I have walked through and grown through (oh, the growth part can be so painful, yet so necessary for each and every one of us, no matter how young or old we are) and even at times, those dark valleys that I have stumbled, floundered and fallen down in while wandering the darkness of the deep canyons, I can always see His hand guiding me and nurturing me.

It’s through the best and the worst of those times that I am daily becoming the man that God wants me to be. I honestly can look at anyone, and I do mean anyone and say to them I would not trade anything for the journey I have been on. Now, I wish I could take away the pain and the hurt that I have put others through. But, I would not be where I am today had I not had to go through what I have went through in my life. My friends, as hard as that is to grasp, it’s the truth for you and your life as well. We are all dealt a bad hand at times, but we have to pick ourselves up and go on! We have to.... we have no choice! Like I say all the time, “Lord help me become better and not bitter...change me...change me...”, and I can see a couple of you dear ones who I have shared this with, grinning from ear to ear with those wonderful smiles of yours. You have lived some of that with me as of late. I love walking beside you, and I recognize the simple fact that God has ordained it, so I will continue embracing and cherishing these growing times with each other.

It's been 25 years ago that I had come to most likely one of the darkest caves of my life. I had made so many absolute crappy choices (oh, I so badly want to write the "S" word...because that is what these choices were). I was at the lowest point, and I was giving up...I would not allow anyone that was around me to say anything to me that was going to change my mind...I was in the midst of sin, and I was loving every minute of it...well, so I thought I was. I was being so selfish, prideful and stubborn (wonder how many of us there are like that even today, as I am reading and writing this?). Yeah, I was still putting on the "Christian" act, going out singing and speaking, working for a Christian company, going to church, putting on all the "religious fronts"...but my heart and mind had grown so cold, my heart that had once been so tender and sensitive was now calloused and rough and I was making horrible decisions, that were affecting not only me but my precious family as well. I felt hopeless, and I did not see any value in myself. I totally felt so alone and I really believed that my once beloved and respected God must have given up on me and walked away from me...in reality I had walked away from Him. His Word says, He will never leave us nor forsake us! I am so humbled and glad that I now am at the point in my life that I embrace those words of truth and I truly understand that concept of His love for not only myself but you as well. That is His amazing grace!

There I was in the midst of my despair, I somehow ended up sitting on a park bench all alone. I sat there for what seemed like hours.... I was crying....snotting...yelling... begging God to either change me, change those ones around me or let me go. Through the tears and my deep emotional anguish, I began to think of the old song "Whatever It Takes".... now I had sung that song for years, and honestly thought that I had applied it to my life when singing it...but those words that Lanny Wolfe had written so eloquently began to simmer deep in my heart.... I began to really pray the words to the song.... I began to feel conviction like I had not experienced before.... I kept singing this song over and over and over again...for what seemed like hours. I am sure the other people in the park thought I was a total lunatic. What was so amazing, as I began to sing, I also began to repent. I began to look back at those last few months of my life and I was finally grasping and acknowledging the reality of how wrong I was...how I had been so blind.... how many of those around me that I was hurting...I knew I had to change.... there again, Lord change me! There was no doubt in my mind. I needed to reach up and grab that nail-scarred hand that was reaching out for me. The lyrics to the song were giving me such hope and a new awareness of His unconditional love for me. I began to feel Him so close to me again...I could sense His presence that I had run from...He was there with me again; actually He had never left me!

Now here it is 20 years later, and the words to this song still ring as true to me today, as they did when I was 17, then when I was 28, and now as I am a very young, hip and cool 48...profound lyrics and haunting melody.... still move me.... challenge me.... motivate me.... and push me to make "whatever it takes", my daily prayer.

Friend, wherever you are on your own journey, whatever questions you may continue to have, maybe you are listening to the wrong voices, maybe you are being stubborn like I was, maybe you just feel like no one is there for you, or they could care less...which I

assure you is not the case at all. Please allow me to share the lyrics to the song that helped draw me closer to Him. My prayer is that you will make these words your own personal plea and prayer asking Him to draw you closer to Him and His love.... begin to meditate on the words.... read them closely, and if you know the song...begin to make it your own prayer...sing it over and over.... and let it come from the depth of your heart...tell Him "Whatever It Takes".
He is right there with you...He really is!

"There's a voice calling me from an old rugged tree, and it whispers, draw closer to me. Leave this world far behind, there are new heights to climb, and there's a new place in Me you will find."

"For whatever it takes to draw closer to You, Lord.... that's what I'll be willing to do. I'll trade sunshine for rain, comfort for pain, that's what I'll be willing to do. For whatever it takes for my will to break...then that's what I'll be willing to do."

"Take the dearest things to me, if that's how it must be to draw me closer to thee, Let the disappointments come, lonely days without the sun, If thro' sorrow more like you I'll become. Take my houses and land; change my dreams and my plans, for I'm placing my whole life in your hands. And if you call me today to a land far away, Lord I'll go and your will obey..."

"For whatever it takes to draw closer to You, Lord...that's what I'll be willing to do. I'll trade sunshine for rain, comfort for pain, that's what I'll be willing to do. For whatever it takes for my will to break...then that's what I'll be willing to do."