

He Still Speaks

**Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is near.
Isaiah 55:6**

At one time or another, we have all checked that little square box that identifies us as being "single". For many people "single" is a good thing. For others it's a very lonely and uncomfortable time.

Until just one year ago, I had been single for 16 years. Wow! That sounds like a long time. I think I experienced just about every human emotion and life experience possible during my single years. First I went through the healing from divorce (yes, there is life after divorce)...then there was the adjustment of raising 3 sons pretty much on my own....and eventually the awkward "beginning-to-date-again stage".

I was pretty much committed to not remarrying until I had raised my sons and read every self-help book on the market! Ha! In 1998, I got certified as a scuba diver and began traveling all over the world. Moreover, I met some really quality friends (and some frogs too, heh, heh). I found those single years to be a great opportunity to not only develop my character, but a time to build an intimate relationship with my Lord, which I did. He became my best friend, my husband, and even a father to my sons. He filled the void in my life that no one else could.

Yet, I also experienced a season of loneliness. I can remember desperately needing to hear from God...urgently needing Him to speak to me down in the depths of my soul. Maybe you know that place, where music can sometimes reach. I needed to know in a tangible way that it was God reaching out to me in my everyday need, showing me that He cared about me. I needed to feel His presence and confirmation that I was on the right track.

There are many scriptures where God asks us to "seek Him"...I have sought after God over the years and I have found Him to be faithful to me! Now, sometimes when I seek God, I do it in a way that is unique to me.

I worked at a hospital at the time I was needing to hear from God and there just happened to be a craft sale on this same day. Hundreds of raffle tickets for various prizes were being sold. There was one prize - the Grand Prize - a soft, warm, cuddly blanket with the American Flag with red, white and blue running through it. I thought about this blanket and realized that I could ask God to speak to me through the warmth of this blanket. It would be a great way for God to confirm to me that He cares for me and whether I'm on the right track with my life choices. It was also a way to feel the warmth of His love for me. So I got alone with God and asked Him if He would answer me by letting me win this blanket, if He would speak to me in this tangible way...a way that would meet my great need to hear from Him.

Later that day, a woman came to me with the blanket, telling me I had won it in the raffle. Words cannot express how the "touch of God" - His presence - came over me, but my eyes welled up as I gladly received the blanket from her...she doesn't know why I reacted as I did...but I do...He Still Speaks...and I was forever changed.

Heavenly Father, May we seek you and find you when we seek with our whole hearts. Most of all, may we be ready to hear when you speak. In Jesus Name I pray, Amen

Sherry Westland