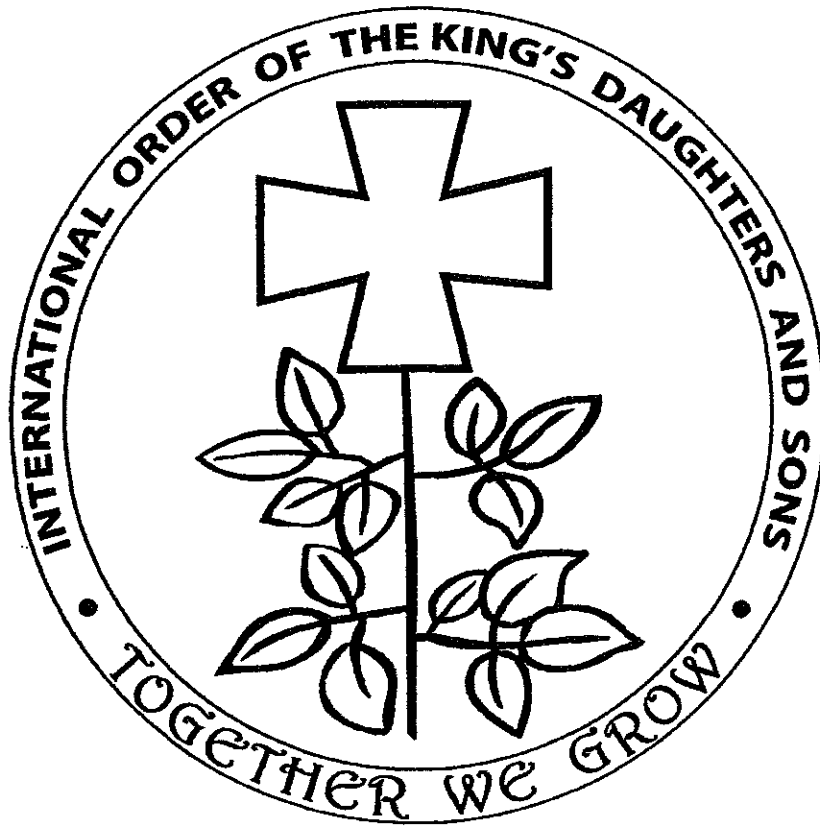


MEDITATIONS



**With God's Help, Nothing Is Impossible
Moving Forward With Christ**

**Text: Jesus looked at them and said, "With mortals it is impossible,
but for God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26**

**48th General Convention
The International Order of
The King's Daughters and Sons
April 25-30, 2008
Williamsburg, Virginia**

Convention Meditation

Monday, April 28, 2008

A non-believer asked a minister, "If I become a Christian, will all my problems go away?" The minister told him, "No, but you will have the power to deal with them." In the midst of life's problems, God supplies us with everything we need to see us through. Ephesians 3:20 gives us this assurance: *With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine.*

Exodus 13:21 tells us that *The Lord went before (the Israelites) by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way.* We all know that clouds will come, as they are a part of life; but we should not be depressed by them. Just as the clouds in the sky can have the positive effect of protecting us from the brightness of the sun, life's clouds can reveal to us the glory and love of God. Like those children of Israel, we also at times pass through the wilderness. We must never forget that God is with us and goes before us to guide us. He gives us strength and courage to face our problems and not be afraid. God's help is near and always available, making it possible for us to work our way through the dark times to a brighter day. Remember that *The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?* Psalm 27:1

Think for a moment about stories in the Bible where the situations seemed impossible for humankind, but help came to the people from the Lord. The Israelites could not have escaped from Egypt if God had not parted the Red Sea, and they would have died in the wilderness if they had not received water and manna from heaven. Remember Daniel in the lion's den, Sampson's destruction of the temple, Paul's imprisonment? These are a few among the many other instances where it was certainly God performing these acts that humans alone could not do. In Chapter 19, Verse 20 Matthew tells his followers, *For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.*

"Corrie ten Boom once said, 'When the train goes through a tunnel and the world gets dark, do you jump out? Of course not. You sit still and trust the engineer to get you through...'" In our daily lives, we need to hear that our engineer, God, is still in control. We need to hear that it's not over until He says so. We need to hear that life's mishaps and tragedies are not the reason to bail out. They are simply a reason to sit tight until God can take control, remembering that we are not alone. We are told *Don't be afraid, because the Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go.* Joshua 1:9 When a situation appears to us to be impossible, we must keep the faith and trust in God to be in control of making it possible again.

Jesus said, *If your faith is as big as a mustard seed...all things will be possible for you.* Matthew 17:20 Often times we commit our burdens, cares and concerns to the Lord, but then we fail to have the faith trust Him. We take matters into our own hands, only to discover that we have made a really big mess of things. That's when we pray, "Oh Lord, help me. I'm in big trouble." Instead of relying on our faith and turning to God as a first resource, we often turn to Him as a last resort. We need to seek first the Kingdom of God. In the midst of life's problems, God knows of our struggles and supplies everything

we need to see us through. *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.* Proverbs 3:5-6

As Christian believers, we also need not be afraid of tomorrow, because God is already there waiting for us to help us through our problems, comfort our sorrows, ease our pains, soothe our broken hearts. God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, and promises never to leave or forsake us. With God's help, we can make it through life one day at a time. We must trust our faith in God and believe, for there will be another brighter day. Jesus spoke of faith that can move mountains. Our power comes from having that same faith, and believing and trusting that we, too, can achieve what we see should be done. The words of Jeremiah 32:27 remind us that *I am the Lord, the God of every person on the earth. Nothing is impossible for me.*

Helen Steiner Rice has written a poem entitled "We Can't...but God Can!" The poem reads:

"Why things happen as they do we do not always know,
And we cannot always fathom why our spirits sink so low...
We flounder in our dark distress; we are wavering and unstable,
But when we're most inadequate The Lord God's ALWAYS ABLE...
For though we are incapable, God's powerful and great,
And there's no darkness of the mind that God can't penetrate...
And all that is required of us whenever things go wrong
Is to trust in God implicitly with a FAITH that's deep and strong.
And while he may not instantly unravel all the strands
Of the tangled thoughts that trouble us – He completely understands...
And in His time, if we have FAITH, He will gradually restore
The brightness to our spirit that we've been longing for...
So remember, there's no cloud too dark for God's light to penetrate
If we keep on believing and have FAITH ENOUGH to WAIT!

This poem was based on these words of assurance written by Mark in Chapter 10, Verse 27: *With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible.*

Carole Babel
Vice President/Spiritual Life Director

CONVENTION MEDITATION

2008

Isaiah 50:4-5 NLT Morning by morning he wakens me and opens my understanding to his will. The Sovereign Lord has spoken to me, and I have listened.

God is trying to get His message through.....to us!! Are we listening??

There is a song that starts out, "*Nothing is impossible if you put your trust in God*"! Jesus made it very clear to His disciples; they should petition God to meet their needs. So should we. Genuine, heartfelt prayer produces powerful changes in us and in our world. When we lift our hearts to God, we open ourselves to a never-ending source of divine wisdom and infinite love.

Sometimes the requirements of daily life can drain us of our strength and rob us of the joy that is rightfully ours in Christ. When we are faced with what seems to be impossible tasks and demands, tired and discouraged, there is a source from which we can draw power to recharge our spiritual batteries. That source is God.

Turn your heart toward God in prayer...make the time to delve deeply into God's Holy Word. The Christian faith and Our Order is founded upon promises that are contained in a unique book. That book is the Holy Bible. When we are looking for a roadmap for life for the here on earth and for life eternal we only need to read and study the Bible. God has made promises to us and He intends to keep each one of them. A passing acquaintance with the Good Book is not sufficient for Christians who seek to obey God's Word and understand His will.

We must leave it up to God to answer our prayers in His own way. At times we are so impatient and think that God does not answer. God always answers! Sometimes it is not the answer we wanted and sometimes it takes longer than we had hoped and sometimes He just says NO!

Have you ever thought that possibly what you want and think is The Answer to a situation. But it is just that, our answer and not Gods. I once read that Only God can move mountains, but faith and prayer can move God.

When we place our faith, our trust, and our lives in the hands of Jesus Christ, we will be amazed at the marvelous things God can do with us and through us.

With God, all things are possible, and He stands ready to open a world of possibilities to us....if we have the faith of a mustard seed. As we continue to conduct the business of The Order, let us never lose sight of God's promises to us. God gave us the gift of life and what we do with that life is our gift to God.

Prayer: Father God, let us always give thanks to You, to sing praises to the Most High. Let us proclaim your unfailing love each morning and your faithfulness each evening. Help us remember that nothing is impossible when we do put our trust in You. Our sense of timing is fallible and imperfect; Yours is not. Give us the patience and the wisdom to trust Your plans. May we live each day with thanksgiving in our hearts and praise on our lips? Let us share the joyous news of Jesus Christ with a world that needs His healing touch today and every day. Make us always aware that nothing we accomplish is of ourselves but only through Your wisdom, guidance and strength. Bless the work of our Order this day and may it be pleasing in Your sight. Amen

Betty L. Crowder, Ohio Branch President

Devotion for Wednesday morning, April 30, 2008- Convention in Virginia

THE STORY OF THE CRUMBLING PATH - By Mrs. Margaret Bottome

A good many years ago I read a little book or tract called "The Crumbling Path," which made a great impression on my mind. I am sorry I lost it. I do not know whether the tract is still in print or not. I will give it to you from memory.

A lady had spent the summer in the Highlands of Scotland, and she had been so used to seeing great mountains that she said, when she left the Highlands, she had only to close her eyes and she could always see them. Once she seemed to see the vision of a very tall mountain whose summit was above the clouds, and saw that its sides were thronged with people, and she learned that all these people were hoping to go and live in a beautiful city, built on the top of the mountain, and though they could not see it they all believed it was there. The king of that beautiful country had sent his messengers to urge the people to redeem the time and gather the precious stones that strewed the mountain sides. She saw, on looking a little closer, that all had baskets on their arms, and some were very eager to gather the stones at the foot of the mountain; they lost no time, but gathered as they went.

She noticed that others had their baskets half full before they had gone any distance up the mountain path; but some were idle and did not stoop to gather the stones for their baskets, though all of them knew that the king had requested that every one, young and old, should gather those stones to adorn his palace-not for its building, but for its adornment. The king's messengers kept saying, "Redeem the time; redeem the time!" These messengers were of every nationality, so that all the people could understand the command of the king, but the views were fine from the mountain side, and she heard some say, "Well, I don't intend to gather until I am a long way up the mountain path; I don't want to carry a heavy basket."

At first this seemed reasonable, but she saw that the king sent his servants to help those whose baskets were full, and then she noticed that those who had neglected to gather at the foot of the mountain did not find the stones so fine farther up the mountain path, for she saw them pick up stones and throw them away. They were not fine enough to put into their baskets, and then she heard them regret that they had not commenced lower down the hill to gather, where the stones were so many and so beautiful.

One said, "Oh, I am so sorry I did not pick up that stone I passed a little time ago; I believe I will go back and find it." And then came the discovery

that there was no going back; the path was a crumbling path; a stone once passed was passed forever so far as the individual was concerned. Another path with precious stones would be made for others, but there was no going back, and then she heard regrets on every side: "Oh, I am so sorry I can't go back; my basket is not half full." And some said: "Why, I have hardly commenced to gather, and yet I must go on," and the stones were becoming very rare as they approached the summit. And there was such a dread on the part of many in regard to meeting the king without having done as he commanded. Now the cloud was becoming so thin that she could see through it and she saw that those who had passed through the cloud had their baskets on their arms and their hands folded across their breasts.

The time allowed for gathering was over; they now had to go before the king with their baskets, whether full or empty. Just as she was thinking of this a light burst upon her vision beyond all beauty she had ever conceived of. The city was a sight! The foundations of the city were of all manner of precious stones, and with the most wonderful light upon it that made it indescribably beautiful. And then she saw the palace of the king, and the people with their baskets going up the beautiful marble steps to go in before the king, and the guide at his side seemed to take her where she could see the travelers as they came up one by one and stood before the king, who was seated on his throne of dazzling beauty, and she wondered how it would be with them. One by one they came, each one standing alone before him, and he looked in every basket as they came up, and when the baskets were full he smiled such a beautiful smile as he said, "Well Done! You are faithful; go into the city and take all the joy that awaits you."

Then she saw some come up whose baskets were only half full, but still he smiled and said: "Perhaps your path was not so richly strewn with the precious stones, and you did what you could; well done! Pass in." Then she saw those who had been idle and careless come up; some of them hadn't even the bottom of their basket covered; and they shrank from going before the king, but all had to "appear," and then she saw the countenance of the king change. He said to them: "You had the same opportunity that the others had. You had only to pick up the stones, they were there for you. You did not care to please me. You were not willing to deny yourself, and I do not wish any servants around me who do not love me," and she saw them as he motioned with his hand and said, "Depart." They went back into the dark cloud.

She then awoke from her dream or vision. And now what did it all mean? The mountain path is our journey through this world. Our little baskets on our arms, into which the Master will some time look, are our lives on this journey. The precious stones are our opportunities for the making the most of our time.

I remember once, in speaking to young girls, that I gave them this allegory. One of the loveliest girls in New York sat near me, and I can see her beautiful face now as she took in so eagerly the little parable. When she went home she told it all to her little brother, seven years of age; and told him that no one was so young as to be without a basket. A few days after he came running to her, exclaiming: "Sister, I have a stone in my basket!" "How did you get it, dear?" she asked. "Why," said he, calling a little boys name, "He hit, and I didn't hit back at him; wasn't that a stone in my basket?"

"Indeed it was," she replied. Only a few days after he was taken ill with scarlet fever, and in a week's time he was dead. When his sister told me, with tears in her beautiful eyes, she said: "Oh, Mrs. Bottome, I know he and one stone in his basket."

VERSES TO BE READ FIRST:

Ecclesiastes 3:5 A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.