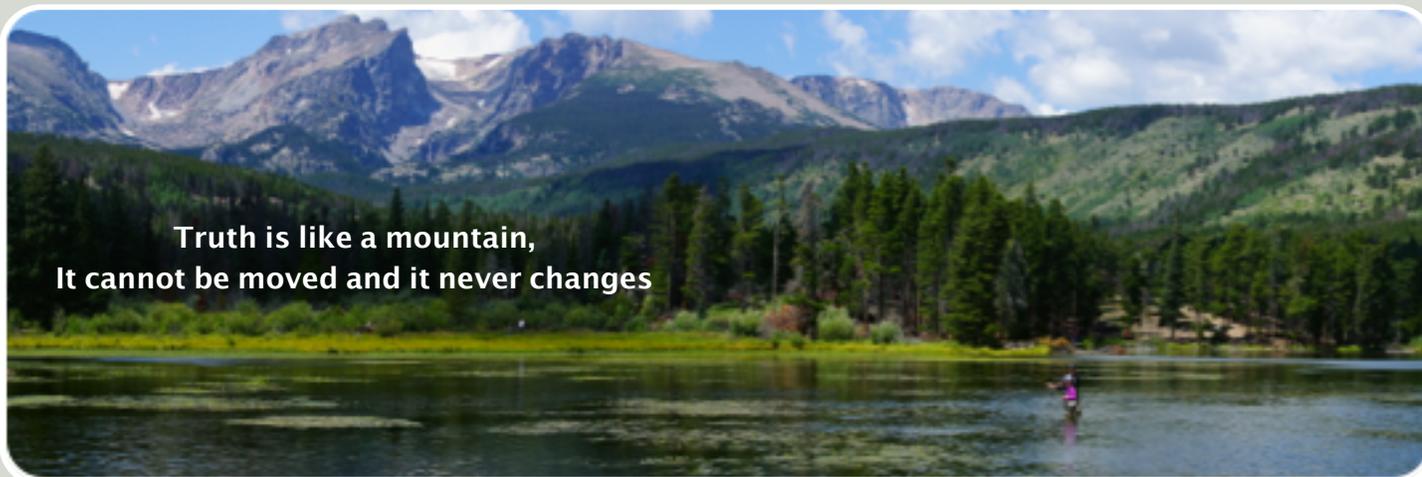


DECEMBER 2022

"TRUTH"

**A SURE WORD
FOR TODAY**



Truth is like a mountain,
It cannot be moved and it never changes

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UPDATE

As we come to the end of the year and the Christmas season is before us, we want to wish all our readers a blessed Christmas. We also want to thank all who helped us this past year with the financial obligations our website creates. It has been a very good year and God continues to supply all our needs through those who value this ministry and are able to support it. Only eternity will reveal how many lives have been strengthened and enriched.

Our prayer for all is that God would supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus and that you and your family would also be blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ. In the coming year may you see God do exceeding, abundant, and above all that you could ever think or ask. We pray for His protection to rest upon you and your family, and if this should be the year of His return, that all of you would be ready to meet Him.

MARANATHA!

FEATURE ARTICLE: "Follow Directions!"

WARNING: You are entering the "TRUTH ZONE". You may not like what you read. At times it may make you feel uncomfortable. That is not my goal. My goal is to speak truth that will provide spiritual guidance for you and your family in a time of great spiritual darkness.

You can be sure that what you read here will be TRUTH!

I love Waze! Waze is a phone App that tells me what route to take when I am driving. It warns me of traffic jams ahead, and may even re-route me if it sees a significant problem. I tell it where I want to go, click "Go Now", and Waze does its thing. It is amazing! Recently I got to thinking about my interaction with the Waze App and realized that there are many similarities between it and the way God stands ready to take us to a place of great blessing if we will just seek His guidance.

The first parallel I observed was that Waze never forces me to take a route it has given me. If I choose a different route it instantly accepts the route I have chosen, and using that route gives me new directions to get me to my destination. Likewise, God never forces us to follow the route He knows is best, but rather allows us to take any route we want. However, we should always remember that if we digress from His chosen route, we may never arrive, or for sure, our arrival will always be delayed.

Another thing I have noticed about Waze is that it always tries to get me to take toll roads. 😡 I don't like this, but I think the reasoning behind it is that toll roads are always faster. Again, this runs parallel to how God leads. If you want to follow God there will always be a price to pay, and this is where many get off track. They are just not willing to pay the price and as a result some never arrive at the place of blessing God has for them.

Sometimes Waze will tell me that I need to make a U-turn and get back on the right route; there is also a good chance God may tell you the same thing. If so, it is because He knows the road you are traveling has serious problems ahead and if you continue on it you will experience disaster. If you are wise, you will listen, turn around, and start going God's way.

There is one other thing I must tell you. I have had times when I was certain my Waze App had to be wrong, but then I found out the hard way that I should have trusted it. That is how it is when you decide to let God be the One who is guiding your life. There will be times when you are tempted to doubt that He is giving you the right directions, but trust Him, even when your mind is filled with many unanswered questions.

Unfortunately, many have found that the road they chose got very rough and eventually came to a dead end in the middle of a very dark stormy night. This is hard to deal with because frustration and a sense of failure can set in and soon this is followed by condemnation which causes us to run from God who is patiently waiting for us to seek Him and follow His guidance. If you feel like this is the story of your life, I want you to know that no matter how far off track you have gotten or how many wrong turns you have made, God still has a route that will take you to the place of blessing He has prepared for you. Your arrival time may have been significantly delayed, but God will get you there if you will start seeking His guidance and follow Him. I promise!

There is one area where God's guidance is very different from Waze. We read about it in Proverbs.

Proverbs 16:9 Contemporary English Version

9 We make our own plans, but the Lord decides where we will go.

Yes, we all think we know what the place of blessing looks like and where it is, but many have found that when they got there it wasn't what they thought it would be. That is why there are times God takes us on a journey to a place we never dreamed we would go, and it is there we learn that...

His "ways" are always better than our Waze.

AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH



A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



“Lean On Him!”

We have all heard the song, “Lean on Me” by Bill Withers. It is a classic that dropped in April 1972 and immediately rose to number one on both the

Soul Singles and the Billboard Hot 100 charts. In 2010 it was named by Rolling Stone Magazine as one of the 500 Greatest Songs of All Time.

Some of the lyrics were:

“Lean On Me”

Sometimes in our lives
We all have pain, we all have sorrow.
But if we are wise,
We know that there's always tomorrow.
Please swallow your pride
If I have things you need to borrow
For no one can fill those of your needs
That you won't let show.

Lean on me when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need somebody to lean on.

These words seemed to resonate with something all of us share, and that is a need to have someone be there for us when we experience times of trouble. Not only did the song rise to the top of the charts, but it was also so popular that a movie was made using it as the theme! Because this feeling is so universal, I find it curious that today there are more and more people saying that they don't need anyone.

Recently I overheard a conversation in a restaurant where two gals were talking about how they had decided to put themselves first before anyone else and only trust themselves. Then a few days later I was in an office when the young woman helping me shared that after a painful break-up she had come to a point in her life when she was only going to trust herself. It was then I knew I had to write this article.

I will be the first to admit that it is important to have friends you can lean on, but friends can fail you and betray your confidence. We have all experienced this and know how painful it is. Likewise, self-confidence is good, but when we come to a point where we feel we need no one, we have taken a good thing too far because the Bible tells us there is another way to live.

Proverbs 3:5-7 KJV

5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

7 Be not wise in thine own eyes.....

"Lean On Him!"
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" is a hymn that was published in 1887. I have known this song since I was a young girl and it still encourages me that my best option is to lean on Jesus. The lyrics are:

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk, In this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Chorus:
Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

There is no one I can trust who is as strong as the Lord I serve. He is a just God, He is strong, He is righteous, He is loving and kind, and above all, He knows the truth in every situation I face. I have spent a lifetime learning to lean on Him and He has never failed me. He has saved our lives, protected our family, and preserved our ministry. He has always been there with His arms outstretched and has told us His mercies endure forever.

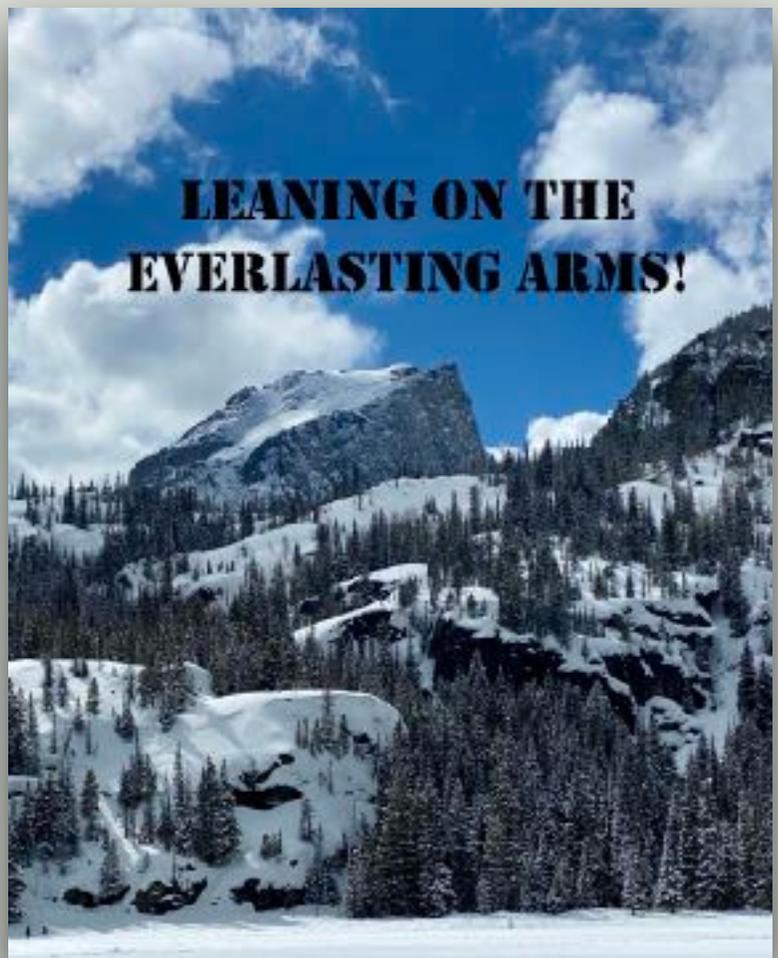
Yes, it is important to have friends we can ask to pray when we need prayer, but our friends can never take the place of the most trustworthy

one, our Savior, Jesus. Nothing is too hard for Him. I choose to lean on Him and trust Him with every concern and care of life because He has never let me down.

Come to think about it, most of Bill Withers's song could have been talking about the Lord.

"Lean on me when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on."

NOW THAT SOUNDS LIKE MY GOD!



AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH

"Watch For The Little Things"

One of the mistakes Bible prophecy teachers make is declaring that a major prophecy's fulfillment is imminent. This can create many problems because "major" prophetic fulfillments are very rare. By "major" I mean things such as what happened on May 14, 1948, the day the modern state of Israel was birthed. I believe this was the single most important fulfillment of Bible prophecy to come to pass in the last 2000 years, and shall forever consider myself immensely blessed to have been alive to witness it. If you demand proof of the existence of God, it has been given to you in your lifetime.

Because events of this magnitude happen so rarely, those who teach that the fulfillment of a major prophetic event is at hand can come across as the bearded old man clothed in dirty rags, standing on a street corner carrying a sign that reads, "The end is near." Right now I can only think of two major prophetic events that are yet to be fulfilled in this dispensation. The first would be Ezekiel 38-39, and the second would be the rapture of the church. I think it is safe to say that these events would certainly be considered "major", and also that there is a **possibility** neither of them will happen in our lifetime.

So, if we are not to teach the imminent fulfillment of either of these great events, what else should we be looking for and what else should we be teaching? **Look for the little things.** Look for the things that are not major, but fit into what the Bible says will happen before the next major event.

It is like the eruption of a volcano. Like a biblical prophecy, a volcano may lay silent for hundreds of years and then suddenly rumble to life. Nearly every day we can observe gas venting, small earth tremors, and small landslides. These are all minor events that indicate a major event is coming. No one knows the exact day when it will erupt, but we know it is coming. People are told to evacuate and then one day the whole mountain blows apart and those who ignored the minor events perish.

When we approach Bible prophecy this way there will always be many exciting things we can observe. A current example would be the link between Iran and Russia. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has been condemned by the whole world and has made Vladimir Putin one of the most despised dictators in history. Despite this, Iran recently supplied Russia with highly advanced military drones equipped with guided missiles. This is not a major prophetic fulfillment but certainly fits into what the prophet Ezekiel wrote in Ezekiel 38-39.

The Bible also tells us what the world will look like at the time when the rapture takes place. When we see these things happening we should not consider them to be "major" prophetic fulfillments. They are small things that point to the most "major" event that will ever happen in church history. When we see these small things, we must resist the temptation to grab our sign and head to the nearest internet street corner.

To help you understand what I am trying to say I will again use Israel as an example. As I have already pointed out, Israel was birthed in 1948, but what few people know is that in 1922 the League of Nations gave the jurisdiction of Palestine to the British with a mandate to make provision for a Jewish state. When that happened in 1922 it would have been very tempting for Bible prophecy teachers to declare that the rebirth of Israel was imminent, when in fact it wasn't. It would take another 26 years and many small things happening before the world would see the prophecy come to pass in 1948.

We all want to see the return of Jesus in our lifetime, but we must accept that we don't know if that will happen. All we know is that the volcano has rumbled to life and we need to pay attention because many small things are happening nearly every day!