

Gleaning In The Fields Of Light

To Move Mountains, Start With A Pebble

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
and proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’
... Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’”*

—The Gospel of Luke

By Ken Woodley

Living with the Holy Spirit is not a spectator sport.

We don’t change any corner of the world from a comfy recliner.

Nor does God want us doubting ourselves and what we can achieve with the Holy Spirit as a teammate.

Who, me? Change the world?

Yes! Yes! Yes!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon all of us who open ourselves to what the Celtic Christians aptly called the “Wild Goose.” In our chosen moments we will be lifted by its wings to do the work that God has given us to do—even if we may not fully know exactly where we’re going or how we’re going to get there.

No, we’re not likely to become a member of the Prophet Hall of Fame like Samuel, Isaiah or Jeremiah.

But we don’t have to become legendary.

We need to open our windows and doors, and our heart, to God. And re-open them day-by-day and, if necessary, hour-by-hour. And sometimes it is necessary because they can slide shut without our noticing it.

Our prophetic mission will make itself clear when that moment, or those moments, are manifested to us by the Holy Spirit.

Whether it’s a clothing exchange, making food available to those in need, putting our arm around someone when they need that most or sending someone a healing note of companionship.

The small moments need filling just as desperately as the great big ones do. And there’s nothing small about filling any moment with love.

We are also called to speak out against injustice by writing, emailing or telephoning our elected representatives and fighting for a cause: local, regional, statewide, national or global in scope.

Or standing up in person to speak face to face with those elected officials.

Speaking truth to power isn’t a First Amendment right reserved for a chosen few.

And to move mountains you’ve got to start with the pebbles and the stones.

That’s the only way the mountains know you mean business.

When we give the Holy Spirit of God the use of our tongues, there’s no telling what we might say and who might be listening.

And how they might respond.

Even if we're only speaking to ourselves.

Sometimes—and sometimes especially—when we're speaking truth only to ourselves because we all need reminding that we are no longer held captive away from God's love and grace.

That our sight of God's love and grace has been recovered.

That the our oppression has ended and we are free to wrap our arms and hearts and minds and souls around that love and grace.

That the Lord's favor has been announced to us.

To all of us.

Without exception.

Jesus said so.

And that Good News is worth believing, and sharing.

Even if nobody's listening but you.