



Isaiah 42:8—I am the Lord: this is my name: and my glory I will not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

Many are facing this New Year filled with silent fears and growing trepidation. Some are uneasy because they have seen some ominous signs that lie ahead. Others are anxious because they have no idea what to expect. What they do know is neither reassuring nor comforting. If anything the uncertainty and unpredictability of it all leaves them feeling clueless and powerless. Christians, nevertheless, regardless of circumstance, can gain confidence and reassurance from knowing that whatever the future holds, the Lord is already there planning our deliverance and or our perfection. Unlike us, he is not limited by time or space or resource. It would seem prudent that as we travel down the unknown road, though the undiscovered country, toward the rising hills and across the swelling river, to journey with the only one who is never surprised not caught unprepared. God alone is transcendent and larger than life itself. Because we are his children his Spirit is around us, above us and within us. His ways are broader, deeper and higher than anything we are able to comprehend. There is no need for us to struggle to know and understand all the answers to all the questions. We only need to know Him, who has all the answers. As long as the Lord holds the future, manages the present and forgives the past there is no need for anyone of us to feel small, weak or doomed. His grace can sustain us, his love can deliver us, his mercy can equip us.

So let's put our shoulder to the wheel and push no matter how deep the mud or how unsteady the wagon. Wheels were made to turn and wagons were made to carry loads; it simply a question of pushing. Faith is what we need, obedience is what we lack, submission is what we resist. What happens or does not happen to us this year is actually insignificant, whether blessing or curse. What God does or what God allows is his call, not ours. His ways and his words are sufficient in and of themselves. We do not have to defend them. Contrary to the thinking of some, He is not a stern teacher anxious too flunk and embarrass his students, He is not some jaded Judge waiting to punish and humiliate the guilty, neither is he an uncaring gossip spreading rumors about our weaknesses and failings across the brotherhood. Even though he is righteous and we are not, he wants to bless us, to encourage us, to support us, to inspire us, to guide us, to supply us. He alone is the Lord. He has the authority to declare us righteous if we only form and maintain a true relationship with him.