



# Watchman Prayer Alert

On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen; All day and all night they will never keep silent. – Isaiah 62:6

**Paul prayed  
that we “will  
know what is  
the hope of His  
calling, what  
are the riches  
of the glory of  
His inheritance  
in the saints.”  
Colossians 1:18**

## Take the U-Haul and Go Get It

A few weeks ago our family made a seven hour road trip together, three siblings and their spouses. I've been part of this family for sixteen years, and the Fulghum family is an amazing collection of personalities. We enjoy each other and cherish the time we can spend together.

To be honest though, I was dreading this trip. Our beloved Aunt Dollie had died almost two weeks before, and we were headed to Georgia to sort through the belongings she had left behind.

A 90-year old saint, Aunt Dollie had always been generous. She had no children of her own, so she took a special interest in my husband and his siblings. In the end, she left the contents of her house to her nieces and nephews.

I've seen families destroyed by squabbles over an inheritance. The thought of that tension had me unnerved.

### **Treasure Box**

We arrived late Friday evening and started with a quick breakfast and prayer early Saturday morning.

Dollie's house was a huge treasure box. We didn't find any bars of gold or hidden stashes of cash. But, we did find what she valued most... gifts from her sister and friends that she had saved for over 50 years, photo albums galore and lots of costume jewelry.

It was a rare glimpse into someone's life. It was uncomfortable to go through her closets and drawers and garage. It almost felt like we had rolled up in a U-Haul to loot her house. At the same time, it was a comfort.

### **Remembering Aunt Dollie**

Reminders of Dollie were everywhere. The scent of her favorite perfume still hung in the air. Her lapboard with all the family phone numbers and pictures still sat next to her chair, along with the magazines and Anne Graham Lotz book she was reading.

She had bagged up linens to keep them clean, and she had handwritten notes on all of them. Many pieces of furniture and Bibles were tagged with notes in her handwriting, designating them to specific people.

What an encouragement it was for us. We found the poem she cherished when her husband died. We found an award from the Governor that I never knew she received. We found several marked up Bibles and evidence of her prayer life.

### **Dish Towel Dickering**

We had an incredible time together. From kitchen we'd hear, "What do you think this is?" From the back room, "Why do you suppose she kept these?" I should never have worried about the trip. One of the big disputes was over a "Mammy" dish towel.

By the end of the weekend, we had divided the antique furniture, the crystal dishes, the household items



*“For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.”*

*–Colossians 1:9-12*

and earrings. Aunt Dollie wasn't wealthy, but she had a house full of things. Each of us came home with treasures that will remind us of this godly woman for years to come.

### **Lessons Learned**

As I consider our weekend adventure, I've come away with some new perspective. I've been ruminating on the thought of an inheritance.

### **Mysterious and Valuable**

I had no idea what we'd find in the house, what the "inheritance" would actually be. Does it have value? Is it sentimental? What responsibility comes with it? What will it require of me? Is it something we will pass to our children? An inheritance comes with a certain element of mystery.

Moses led the Hebrews through the desert for 40 years. He told them he was taking them to the land that God was giving them as an inheritance. None of them had ever seen it. They could only imagine what was in that new land.

### **Must Be Claimed**

Even though we were mentioned in the will, the inheritance didn't just come to us. We had to go get it. We had to make the trip, present ourselves as the heirs, sort through everything in the house and claim our inheritance.

In the same way, the Hebrews made the journey. They staked the claim. Then, they fought for their inheritance. One city at a time, God went before them and cleared the land for them to inherit.

Like their fathers, they could have walked away. Moses brought the nation to the borders of their future home about two years after they left Egypt. The men did not believe

God, and they were afraid of the giant Canaanites in the land. They failed to claim their inheritance. So, God made them wander for 40 years until the doubters had died. Then, God took the new generation into the Land of Promise to receive the inheritance.

To claim an inheritance, someone has to leave it to you. And, you have to be willing to receive it. We were not looting Aunt Dollie's home. We were receiving the inheritance that she wanted us to have. We were treasuring what she valued. We were honoring her.

### **Left Behind**

There was no way we could take everything that Aunt Dollie left for us. We each took something to remember her and some nice pieces that would fit our homes and our lifestyle. As we pulled away from Aunt Dollie's home, we knew we had left a gorgeous oak desk, some silver dishes, some china and other valuables. Aunt Dollie had many friends who would all want something to remember her by. Someone else would inherit what we left behind.

The Hebrews didn't claim all their land either. In each territory, there were a few cities where they left Canaanites. The Canaanites they failed to conquer inherited what the Hebrews left unclaimed. These pagans were the ones who led the Hebrews into the worship of false gods. This led to their ultimate downfall.

### **For the Children**

At Aunt Dollie's, each couple took special items for their children. At that moment we were bridging the gap between the past generation and the next.

It was humbling to realize that one

day, someone will sort my things in the same way we went through Aunt Dollie's. Our offspring will see what we really treasure most.

Will their faith be energized by what they find? Will the material possessions we leave give them reasons to rejoice or cause for squabbles? An inheritance is meant to be passed onto future generations.

### **Spiritual Inheritance**

We have another inheritance that we are eagerly anticipating, the inheritance of the saints. We expect the inheritance, because Paul spoke of it on several occasions.

Paul addressed the Ephesians and said, *"I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified."* (Acts 20:32)

Paul told of his commission from God to preach to the Gentiles. God wanted to see them *"receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me."* (Acts 26:16)

Later we are told, *"Those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance."* (Hebrews 9:15)

If we believe these passages, then we anticipate a future reward that is set aside for the "sanctified." Those who are made holy by their faith are made heir of the Kingdom.

Just like our physical inheritance, there is an element of mystery here. We know this spiritual inheritance is of great value. It is eternal. At the same time we have trouble envisioning what it will look like.

In the meantime, while we wait, we have been given a down payment on our inheritance. *"In Him, you*

*also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance."* (Colossians 1:14)

Living this life would be impossible without the Holy Spirit. If He were the entire inheritance, it would be more than we deserve. But, He is just a token of what is to come.

There is no doubt that we are heirs to an incredibly valuable estate. The question is...are we willing to assume the responsibility of such an inheritance? Are we willing to make the appropriate journey through this life to receive the reward? Are we willing to receive the inheritance that we didn't earn and don't deserve?

*"Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve."* (Colossians 3:23-24)

The inheritance that Jesus offers me is of great value. It is something I must receive. I don't want to leave any of it unclaimed. I want to possess every gift He has for me. I want to stand in the gap between the last generation and the next so that my children and grandchildren will stand to inherit all the treasures that My Creator has bequeathed to me.

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you."* (1 Peter 1:4)

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