



*“Imagine yourself a living house. God come in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on: you know that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of - throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were going to be made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself.” - C.S. Lewis, “Mere Christianity”*

When was the last time God asked you to trust Him? What were the circumstances you found yourself in when He asked? For me it was when I was perfectly content, minding and going about my own business. I was thinking about this quote, when God made His presence and His request very clear to me: “trust me.” When I thought everything was going well and my life was as I expected it and God asked me to trust Him I must admit, I was struck with fear and anxiety. “I thought I was trusting you, why do I need to trust you now...specifically, right now.... what are you going to do?” I admit that my reaction to God asking me to trust Him was less than I would have hoped. In fact, it took a couple days and a proverbial smack upside the head for me to actually get to my knees and say to the Lord, “I do trust you, I invite you to come do what you want with me and my life.” What happened next surprised me: in a lull in my day quite exhausted from my resistance to God’s pursuit, I found myself alone with Him again. This time instead of pursuing me, He asked me to pursue Him. He said to me, “Ask me to bless you, and bless you abundantly.” “I have nothing left, Lord. No questions, no concerns, only trust. Yes Lord, please bless me. Please bless me abundantly with all these good things I want and with all the good things I can’t even imagine. Fill me and use me and guide me in your will. I trust you.”

Written words cannot truly express the emotions of this encounter with the Lord, nor can the simple image that acts as a stone of remembrance for me of this Jacobean-like encounter with the Lord. I did not leave that visit with a limp, but I am a bruised reed not to be broken (*Mathew 12:20*) and He has been blessing.

When I obeyed His request to ask for His blessing I asked for some specific things: for the gift of more children, for the salvation of the children He gives us, for our full financial support to be met quickly and in astounding fashion, for favor and satisfaction with the things I put my hands to.

So, here's what He did in response: we are pregnant again(!), due in March. We are watching our children grow and seeing that they are absorbing a knowledge of the Lord. We have exceeded 10% of our financial support and are seeing God connect us to people in amazing ways. The leaders at work and church are investing in me with new opportunities and new responsibilities. He is blessing us and reaffirming to us that He loves and pursues us. He wants to make sure we succeed as we love and pursue Him.

This is our first update/newsletter and I thought it would be a fitting time to share how our God is providing and enabling us to accomplish His purpose for us. We have set out on an amazing journey and we are so grateful that we get to have you a part of it with us.

**Please be in prayer for us in these ways:**

- *Join us in praying for Ruth and the new baby's health and safety. Ruth is doing well and glad to be out of the second trimester.*
- *For our ministry team to continue to grow and us to manage those relationships well. We are excited to be able to be part of your life and are eager to know how we can serve you, too.*
- *We are a little over 14% of our financial need. Pray for the Lord to prepare the hearts of people to partner with us financially. (for more information about this please write or call.)*
- *More blessings and more opportunities to bless!*

May the Lord bless you and keep you all as you abide in His!



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