

The Gospel According To . . .

Be Still and Trust God - Part II (Psalm 46 NRSV)

The word says: though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea... In our lifetime, we've witnessed devastating tsunamis when undersea earthquakes cause ocean caverns to shake, waters roll away and forcefully returned with sea walls of devastation; yet we also witnessed miracles of outpoured help and rebuilding)... **though its waters roar and foam** ... In our lifetime, we witnessed Katrina's ferocity of hurricane storms, the complacency of government agencies to correct faulty levees, and the racism that kept thousands from being rescued as waters rushed in; yet, we witnessed heroism and compassion by the hundreds who rescued each other, and still more who reached out and across social construct of race and class to donate and help one another! GOD is present as priorities shift and lives become more important than possessions. Problems seems to flood our senses but before we drown in self-pity and anger - remember also that GOD loves you in spite of yourself!

The word says: God is in the mist of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. In cities where families are disenfranchised, where young people are targeted by unjust police harassment and the societal presumption that people of color are dangerous, life-threatening bodies, WE have to resist injustice by believing we too are children of the most high GOD. Despite Katrina, New Orleans still stands, its black heritage and people cannot be erased. Despite, unethical police and gentrification special interests, Oakland still stands and for all its challenges, we shall not be moved. Jesus says: "The poor, we will always have with us," which means we of the city must be the church of God that moves in the midst of the city, enabling GOD through us to help us help others! People of color with the blood of ancient ancestors rooted in our being - no matter what society thinks about us, what others think about us - GOD is in our midst... and we shall not be moved! **The word says: "nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts...** In our lifetime, the world has seen chaos then and now as egos and warped platitudes of faith are uttered to justify bombings, terrorism, and fundamentalism - everybody invokes 'God' - but read Matt 7:21. All who say Jesus is not of Christ, all who fight are not battling God's way, and God has only to speak to the wind, to the sea, the world and to our hearts... and the earthly chaos melts... BEHOLD WHAT GOD CAN DO!

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