

He is Our Home

As the holiday season is upon us, I am reminded of the saying, "Home is where the heart is". Being raised in northern Canada I have fond memories of the kind of beautiful snow filled days that you see in the movies. We lived in the famous Rocky Mountains, where the sun would drop early during the winter and many times expose the Northern Lights, otherwise called the Aurora Borealis. Where the cold was really cold, and frost would form on your eyelids when you played outside. Snow would fall in October and stay until April.

In our small town of ten thousand we celebrated Christmas with snow ball fights and sledding down hills, surrounded by huge pine trees and beautiful scenery. We would dress up in boots, gloves, warm coats and caps for our heads which we called touques, then we would run out and play in the white covered landscape. Each winter was like living in a perfectly formed snow globe during those years.

In my mind I can travel back and remember many great times, and my heart warms to the holidays. It is the only childhood I had, and in my mind it seemed that this is the same for everyone. It was quite the shock to me when I was on a trip to Brazil to minister God's Word. It was during the holiday season and I realized that they grew up with a whole different experience than I did. They still celebrated Christmas with presents and celebrations like I grew up doing, however because they are in South America it is the middle of their summer. Seeing a man dressed in a red suit, a red hat and full grey beard in the middle of scorching heat was a new experience for me.

It was a reminder for me that everyone has different experiences growing up. Not only with snow and scenery but more importantly we have different personal experiences. For some, the holiday season brings emotions of loneliness and sadness instead of joy and cheer. It's important for us to realize this, and to look around to be encouragers to the people we know and see. Also, it is important to remember who we really are as children of God.

Moses and the children of Israel would sing a song with some of the words saying, "*The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will exalt Him.*" Exodus 15:2. This

should be added to our Holiday singing to remind each of us who we really belong to and where our home truly lies with Him. He is our Home, He is our dwelling place, for the weak and the strong, He is our all in all.

The world is trapped to accept their life as all they get, but you are a child of God and you have a new beginning, and you can gain joy and strength from Him regardless of your past. In fact, whether we had a great upbringing or a horrible one, it is important that we find our strength in Him anyways. Many Christians are naturally strong and never really learn to rely on Him for their strength.

1 Corinthians 6:20, "*For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*" Each of us belongs totally to Him and that means that all things are possible for you. He is always your home, your place to always find strength and to be filled with faith and hope. He is your joy and your strength and He will never abandon you or fail you. This season celebrates that Jesus came to make it possible for His Father to become your Father. Be encouraged today and through this season that your Father loves you and you are always at home in Him.

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