

Insights from the Isles (4)

Be Steadfast!



Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
(Psalm 51:10-12).

An older man came to visit me today. It was lovely to half close my eyes and listen to him reminiscing. ‘I remember the very first time the Lord spoke to me,’ he shared enthusiastically. ‘I’d been going to a particular church and not feeling as though I was getting anywhere, and then one day I had this vision as I was walking along. It was of a deep rut in a ploughed field. As I walked along, I was sinking deeper and deeper into this rut. That’s when I knew I had to change churches.’

‘There have never been many sparkles or fireworks in my life,’ he declared, without a trace of bitterness. ‘I asked the Lord about that and He just said to me, ‘Be steadfast.’ That’s the word I’ve always remembered when I’ve been tempted to think everything’s going a bit slow in my life.’

He concluded his testimony by telling me about the conversion four years ago of his wife, and of the huge changes that have come about since she opened her heart to the Lord Jesus. All as the result of one man being steadfast, and praying faithfully for forty long years . . .

In the great Australian desert, deep rutted tracks cross the desert. Once you're in one of those ruts, you can't get out again. I'm told there's a sign, 'Choose your rut for the next thousand miles!'

Ask the Lord to show you if you are in any kind of a rut. If so, He may be asking you to be faithful and steadfast in it because He knows that it will eventually lead to your destination – just as the rutted track leads eventually to the Australian township. Or is it one of those other kind of ruts that you need setting free from?

Lord of Life, our times are in Your hands.
Where we are in a prolonged settled phase of our lives,
help us to be prayerful and steadfast.
But where there are wrong kind of ruts in our life,
Show us how we can escape from them.
Make these things clear to us, and give us grace to trust and obey
whatever You show us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

For further meditation: Psalm 57:7, Psalm 119:5 and 1 Peter 5:10

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