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*"Christ caring for People
through People"*

October 16, 2011

Exodus 33:12-14 (The Message)

Moses said to God, "Look, you tell me, 'Lead this people,' but you don't let me know whom you're going to send with me. You tell me, 'I know you well and you are special to me.' If I am so special to you, let me in on your plans. That way, I will continue being special to you. Don't forget, this is your people, your responsibility." God said, "My presence will go with you. I'll see the journey to the end."

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (The Message)

Paul, together here with Silas and Timothy, send greetings to the church at Thessalonica, Christians assembled by God the Father and by the Master, Jesus Christ. God's amazing grace be with you! God's robust peace! Every time we think of you, we thank God for you. Day and night you're in our prayers as we call to mind your work of faith, your labour of love, and your patience of hope in following our Master, Jesus Christ, before God our Father. It is clear to us that God not only loves you very much but also has put his hand on you for something special. When the Message we preached came to you, it wasn't just words. Something happened in you. The Holy Spirit put steel in your convictions.

Dear Friends in Christ,

God's people are each one special to him. Moses was obviously chosen of God to be the leader he would use to lead his people to freedom. When he felt overwhelmed by this task he asked God for help and received the reassurance **"My presence will go with you. I'll see the journey to the end."** In the same way Paul reminds the Thessalonians that their faithfulness has convinced him that God loves them and has a very special role for them in his plans. In preparation for this role he declares, **"Something happened in you. The Holy Spirit put steel in your convictions."** In the same way God has a purpose for each of his chosen, you and I included. And in the same way he is present in us to aid us that his purpose may be fulfilled.

How does it feel to know, first that you are special to God, and that along with this special-ness comes the reality that He will sustain and provide for you to do a work in his name and to his glory? Every member of his chosen family is used by God for a purpose; to show a kindness so another, to give love where it is needed, to encourage one who feels forgotten or left out, to remind someone they are being prayed for, to actually pray for someone and thus sustain them in God's love. There are so many ways (large and small) we can be used by God. But no! When it comes to God's assignments there are no small ones.

Ask God how you may serve Him this week. Remember you are newly created in his love and equipped to do God's works which he has prepared in advance for you.

Loving Father in heaven, use us today that your work may be done, your word fulfilled, and your glory revealed, as it was in Christ Jesus our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

(Rev.) John McGurrin