

Dear friends of Vital Signs Ministries,

May 2020



“You are a more important person than you can imagine.”

I have been re-reading C.S. Lewis’ profound “space trilogy” with fresh enlightenment and appreciation this past week but the line I quote above was one that just leapt off the page to me and I’ve been pondering it a great deal. The line comes from *That Hideous Strength*, the third book in the series and, in context, it is a challenge to a young, unhappy woman to see what a crucial part she is called to play in a cosmic struggle between righteousness and evil. The statement is both a prophecy and a call to action which creates a very dramatic moment in the novel.

But, as highly grateful as I am for the numerous challenges the Lord is presenting me in these books (and, believe me, re-reading them in these days of global pandemic, economic disaster, and the horrifying usurpation of a citizen’s freedoms and purpose is really intense), the line with which I opened this letter underscores a particularly wonderful truth of God’s adopted children. Furthermore, it’s a truth I believe is particularly relevant right now, speaking as it does to our confidence, our commitment to duty, our expectations, and our grasp of spiritual joy.

“You are a more important person than you can imagine.”

Now let me emphasize that when this line is delivered in the novel, it is not simply to provide comfort or a boost to the character’s self-esteem. No, it was actually a solemn challenge that she choose sides in the great spiritual warfare that was raging around her – a struggle to which she had heretofore been indifferent. The line delivered to her was therefore not a “there, there” statement meant to soothe her feelings or flatter her ego. Rather, it was a stirring call to arms.

It is the *application* of that challenge that has so convicted (and yet encouraged) me in the last few days. For that line in Lewis’ novel has reminded me of several similar exhortations from Holy Scripture, most notably those that let me know that Jesus Christ can be glorified in me...that He is pleased to listen to my prayers...that He desires to teach me and protect me and use me and even reward me for all of those investments I make in faith for His Kingdom.



Yes, as a Christian (that is, one whose sins were completely and forever forgiven when I trusted wholly in Christ's atoning death), I live in a most glorious and secure position. For instance, the Bible informs me that as an adopted child of God, I am a saint, a co-heir of Jesus, a royal priest, a living stone on whom God "lavishes" the riches of His grace, and more. All of this is terrific beyond imagination.

However, what the Lord desires us to also understand and embrace are the *duties* which our intimate relationship with Him creates. That ongoing practice of godly attitudes and actions are very, very important to Him. That's right; you are significant to almighty God as a beloved child. **Yet you also matter greatly to Him as a doer of the Word...a witness of His grace...a warrior in His army.** It's absolutely astounding but His Word underscores this truth over and over. Your prayers make a difference. Your humility and gratitude matters. Your resistance to temptations is a crucial part of His victory. Your kindnesses and your encouragement to others count.

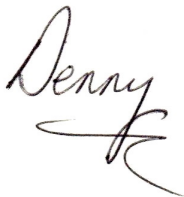
Your example of steadfastness and joy are noted by the omniscient Lord. Your sacrifices and self-denial will be rewarded. Your time in God's Word builds you up and improves your serve. Your generosity pays eternal dividends. Your avoiding the contamination of the world is a gift to God that He treasures. Your boldness and creativity in shining God's love and truth will be used by the Holy Spirit. Your yearning for Christ's return and His ultimate triumph will be awesomely realized.

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In all of the duties listed above, you are given the awesome task of representing your Savior. And remember, you are *fully equipped* to perform them because of the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit. Whether it involves brave actions in the public square, seemingly modest investments in the lives of one or two individuals, services that are seen only by the great God of your salvation and His angels -- you name it -- you are called to take an active role in God's sovereign plan of conquest.

Do not believe any lie to the contrary. Give no room for complacency, let alone laziness or defeatism. Keep your mind pure and focused. And diligently seek those specific tasks which God calls you to and which He has uniquely-gifted you for.

Until next month,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Denny". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned at the bottom left of the page.