

Prophecies for January 18, 2009

Oh Lord, we get so covered up by the world. We get busy and think, "I'll just do this one thing without God." It'll just take a lot less time if I'll do it myself, this small thing. Before the end of the week, you're doing everything by yourself. Each and every one of us who is saved has a place for the Holy Spirit. That's the throne that Christ sits on in each and every one of our lives. Lord, we give You the throne of our hearts.

Last night late I put the TV on, and there was a man teaching Christians. And he was talking about the process of a caterpillar becoming a butterfly. He said a caterpillar is happy munching – munch, munch, munch. Then suddenly he's in a cocoon, and he's being transformed. And part of that transformation process at the end of it is he has to find his way out of the cocoon. In that process something happens, and he's able to fly. Anytime anyone interferes with the process by "helping", the butterfly cannot fly. It's that process in the cocoon, the struggling that has to happen, for the freedom to come after. And I've realized that at times we are in the cocoon, and we're struggling, but God is transforming us. And we have to let it happen, and it's painful. But there's freedom when God's finished with that phase. Unlike the butterfly, we have more than one cocoon in our lives, but anyway. There's freedom when we let God transform us. And the temptation for us watching someone else in their cocoon is to help. Be careful. You can encourage, you can be there, but you can't do it for them. So... wherever you are, God's there and He's working. It's for our good.

Dad and I were discussing this week about ... in our family we've been reading a book about acedia which is a spiritual sin that is somewhat out of fashion, but it's still very much a sin. It's gotten consumed under sloth, basically it means depression or not caring anymore about your spiritual life. And her image of the cocoon brought that back to mind that you have to keep fighting. That's the main thing. The Churchill quote that I use, and I'm not sure if Churchill actually said it, but he might as well have because it's in the spirit of the man, "Never, never, never quit." Which he supposedly gave as the entirety of the speech to a group of anti-war people in England when they wanted him to give up to Hitler, to just stop trying. The other Churchill quote that comes to mind is, "If you're walking through hell, keep walking." Don't stop now. This is not where you want to be. Be where Jesus is, so keep walking toward Him. Don't give up now. We're only on the way. We're not there yet. There's a lot of cobbled street before we get to the fountain in the square. Don't quit. Keep walking.

Perhaps on the heels of that, I was hearing the same thing. Don't give up. You're not alone! At the abbey this week ... so many struggle spiritually in so many different ways. It doesn't matter what your situation, where you are, whether you're a monk at the abbey or out in the world ... we all go through struggles. You're not alone. You're not alone coming out of that cocoon either. You're not alone. God is there, and you have brothers and sisters out there, too...

I have the image of someone who's lost in the woods. It's misting and there's fear, not a whole lot of light, but a whole lot of trees all around. Just feeling, not knowing what direction to go in, and then the realization to stop and stand still and look at the trees about me. But they're not really trees, they're people standing still, too ... wondering if you're not alone. You may feel like you're alone, because our vision is obscured. Stop, stand still, ask. There's someone there all around us.

I guess we've got a theme going. I had a dream this week, and I felt sure it was a word of encouragement for Fr. Nick, but maybe it's a word of encouragement for all of us. Fr. Nick was in the dream. That's why I thought it was for him. He was in what looked like a little room in almost like a

mall. He was having the Eucharist with two or three people. It wasn't in the church. It was in like a mall, sort of like our Friday morning, very small. And when they stood up to join hands to say the Lord's Prayer, there were hundreds of people going out the doors in both directions. I could interpret that several ways. I mean, who you're touching is touching somebody else is touching somebody else; maybe all the company of heaven, the angels and archangels; we may have some real cool outreach in the future. I don't know, but just a word of encouragement that even though it looks very small to us, it's effective in that who you're touching is touching somebody else. And there are, like Becky said, all those witnesses out there even if we don't see them.

As a person that's been in a shell, myself, in a cocoon, struggling as Becky talked about, thinking those things around us were trees when they're actually people is a matter of perspective, because that cocoon was also there to protect you as you grow and as you're changing to block out evil, to get you ready, a preparation point. It might look like you're in the dark when you can't see light. Even in the shell you're being taken care of until the proper time comes. It's up to us to go ahead and do what we can, to take care of our part of the struggle, and let God do the rest. And He will show us which is which, because sometimes we don't know. Which is God's place and which is our place? He'll show us if we ask. He's going to answer us and show us exactly what to do and how to do it.