

May 5, 2015

When we lived in the U.K. the fall and winter would be plagued by dense fogs called “pea soupers.” You could hardly see but a few feet in front of you. I recall commuting from London in my tiny shoe box sized Morris Mini and I could just see the front of the hood. I had to hang my head out the window to try and follow the kerbs in the road. Fogs are a natural phenomena caused by the difference between ground and air temperatures as well as the absence of wind, but U.K. fogs were compounded by heavy air pollution (hence the phrase “pea soupers”) resulting in an extreme health hazard.

Recently during one of my morning prayer times, I seemed to be in one of those spiritual “pea soupers.” It was as if I was surrounded by a dense mist that obscured God from my spiritual vision. The fog was so claustrophobic that all my senses were dead and I couldn’t see or hear. I felt smothered by the grey mist while craving the warmth and brightness of the sun and a fresh breeze on my face.

Some have experienced the “heavens as brass” issue, when prayer appears to rebound and God is but a distant thought. This I believe is a companion to the fog encounter I had. Admittedly I do not have a clear understanding of the reason except the principle that the natural is patterned after the spiritual. First, there is a “temperature difference” between heaven and my spirit. I may be spiritually cold. The solution lies in my desire for the “warmth and brightness of the Son.” When I persevere to seek His face my “body temperature rises” as the Holy Spirit increases my spiritual temperature. The more I continue coming closer to heaven’s climate, the clearer is my seeing and hearing.

It doesn’t matter how dense the fog. The truth is the sun continues to shine and if we continue to seek, ask, and allow the wind of the Spirit to drive away the fog we *will* see the Son shine.

The second more difficult challenge is getting rid of the pollution. This requires an honest review of our pattern of living. The more we continue to allow our sinful behaviour to pollute our lives the denser the fog and greater the spiritual health hazard. “Search me, O God and know my heart and see if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting” till we can pray, “Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing [acceptable] in thy sight, O Lord my strength and my redeemer.”

Then of course there is the challenge of the limitations of our mortal bodies. As Paul states; “Now we see dimly as in a mirror, then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part, then shall I know fully even as I am fully known.” The tease, the frustration of it all is having the knowledge that there is so much more but knowing we do not have the “eyes” to see clearly or possess the capacity to understand fully till that day. The writer to Hebrews tells us that we need to exercise faith to walk this life so that even though at times it appears we’re living life in a fog, the reality is that the sun is always shining beyond it; “Now faith means putting our full confidence in the things we hope for, it means being certain of things we cannot see” Hebrews 11: 1 (J.B. Phillips).

One day the fog will lift, never to return and we shall see Him face to face. All tears will be wiped away and there will be no more sorrow, death or pain and God will dwell with us forever!!!

Shalom.

*Ron Harris*

