

# GUNNPOINT

*Shooting Straight For The heart!*

*February 24, 2009*



## Heidi's Corner

Hi again y'all!!

This little story made me think about some of you cowboys and cowgirls that are always so willing to help others in need. When you lend someone your horse, hat or guns and when you lend a helping hand or your shoulder to cry on, it shows others in a tangible way that you care for them. Thank you for being such good examples. Keep up the good work and God Bless you!

Love you,  
Heidi

### **Author Unknown**

A holy man was having a conversation with the Lord one day and said, "Lord, I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like. "

The Lord led the holy man to two doors. He opened one of the doors and the holy man looked in. In the middle of the room was a large round table. In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew which smelled delicious and made the holy man's mouth water.

The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles that were strapped to their arms and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful, but because the

handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths.

The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering.

The Lord said, "You have seen Hell." They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one. There was the large round table with the large pot of stew which made the holy man's mouth water. The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking. The holy man said, "I don't understand."

"It is simple" said the Lord, "It requires but one skill. You see, they have learned to feed each other, while the greedy think only of themselves."

## Today's GunnPoint

*Show me why You contend with me. Job 10:2*

During these unsettling times in our country, many individuals are wondering what God is doing these days. The wonder thickens when those difficult times affect each of us individually. I remember a humorous thought about the difference between a recession and a depression; a recession is when your neighbor is out of work, a depression is when you are out of work.

If you are going through a tough time right now, whether it be financial or any number of other reasons, such as relational, emotional, health, etc..., here is something I trust will help bring a little understanding to it all. There are times when we may have wondered if God is really there, is He really listening, does He really care, and is there really a God at all? Every Christian at one time or another has asked those questions or similar other ones. Even Jesus, God's own Son cried to Him from the Cross, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?" Have you ever felt like that? Have you ever felt that God may be contending, or fighting against you?

Perhaps, we are often so tried because the Lord is doing this to develop our graces. There are some of our graces which would never be discovered if it were not for our trials. **"Our faith never looks as grand in summer as it does in winter". \***

When we look at Faith, Hope and Love, here is what we can see: "Love is too often like a fire-fly, showing little light unless it is in the middle of surrounding darkness". \* "Hope itself is like a star - not to be seen in the sunshine of prosperity, and only to be discovered in the night of adversity." \* "Afflictions are often the black foils where God sets the jewels of His children's graces, to make them shine even better." \*

It was not too long ago that I wrote and consistently prayed this prayer; "Lord Jesus, help me accomplish loving You with all my heart and soul. I want a passionate, intimate relationship with You. I want You, Lord Jesus, to be the love of my life; without You my life is empty. **Consume every part of my life with your presence and may You be pleased with all I say and do."**

Wasn't I really praying for more faith, real faith, faith that says; "He must increase and I must decrease, He must grow larger in me, while I, me, myself, all that I am (and am not, which usually shows itself bigger than what I am) shrink smaller in this world?" Wasn't I really, though perhaps unconsciously, praying for trials? For how can I really know that I have faith, real faith, full faith, whole faith lacking nothing (which includes Love and Hope), until my faith is exercised?

God often sends us trials that our graces may be discovered, and that we, ourselves can certify their existence. My biggest problems is all too often, the length of time it takes me to discover what it is He is really trying to show me. Like Israel, who had to wander so many years in the wilderness, when their journey to the place God was taking them was only weeks away. When I have seen just a small glimpse of where God is trying to take me, what it is He is trying to show me, I have found myself uttering these words... "Why has it taken me so long to see this? Why has it taken me so long to get here?" I have discovered that real growth in grace is the result of sanctified trials.

God often takes away our comforts and our privileges in order to make us a better Christian. He trains His soldiers, not in tents of ease and luxury, but by turning them out and using them in forced marches and hard service. He is making us to ford through streams, swim through rivers, climb mountains and walk many long miles with heavy knapsacks of sorrow on our backs.\*

So maybe, then this accounts for one of the reasons for the troubles through which we may be passing. Could it be that the Lord is bringing out our graces, and making them to grow as they should? This could be the reason why He is contending with us.

Trials make the promise sweet; Trials give new life to prayer;  
Trials bring me to His feet, lay me low and keep me there.

I leave you with these verses in closing:

*He will not always contend with us, nor will He keep His anger forever.  
He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities.*

*For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.*

*As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. Psalms 103:9-14*

\*Excerpts from Charles Spurgeon, daily devotions.

God Bless You and God Bless America!

Randy and Heidi Gunn

***The Pistol Packin' Preacher***  
***"Do Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly with God"***  
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