

CRIBB<S>NOTE – May 24, 2009

How often do you find yourself looking up? Gazing skyward on a bright, clear day you might notice a flock of birds soaring above your head. On a dark, star filled night you may follow the trail of milky lights. Momentary events can cause us to look up and ponder deeply the meaning of things. We ask, “Why?” Our questions flow freely without assurance an answer will follow. Yet, we continue to quiz ourselves about things beyond our knowledge. We turn to the sky and look up.

When a person faces great challenges that overwhelm the human soul, we may attempt to elevate one’s spirit as we encourage the weary sojourner “to look up.” It is more than a mere expression or cliché. It has meaning with a precise intention to urge each of us to never give up or give in to anything that could bring us down. Looking up is more than a physical exercise of turning our heads or straining our necks. It is an attitude that can transform a single occurrence into a life decision to do something differently.

There is a saying, “The sky’s the limit.” Nothing can keep us from flying past our dreams and attaining unimaginable possibilities. Unseen doors open in front of us and we walk into paths never-before explored. There is no stopping our will to go farther than we’ve ever gone before. We look up and see new ventures. Just when we thought there was nothing more to do, we realize the great bounty of opportunity is infinite.

Looking up gives us another vantage point. Sometimes it means having to seek higher ground without obstacles so our view is unobstructed. It may take the voice of someone else to get us to turn our attention upward. We may be ‘down-in-the-dumps’ without a desire to rise, but a whisper of hope breezes over us and we look up. Immediately, we feel a sensation of ‘what if’ that fills the cavities of once voided crevices within us. “Yes, we can!” screams madly inside our minds. There is a way we can do what is required in the exact moment of need. We look up and see there is no limit to the imagination we possess.

A few years ago when I quit my broadcast job in San Francisco and moved to Mississippi, unexpected experiences turned my life around. I smelled fresh cut grass in the morning and looked up at night to witness the glory of sparkling stars in the sky. I felt the force of life and was humbled by God’s unconditional love. Looking up gave me a new perspective and helped me appreciate being totally alive. In the open spaces of rural Mississippi without the interruption of fast-paced urban distractions, I looked up and observed the vast expanse of a celestial sea. There, I knew God’s Realm is inside us as near as our very breath.

As Jesus spoke his final and parting words to his devout followers, they looked up and watched as a cloud descended and carried Christ out of their sight. They had new found power and they were filled with joy. They looked up and the world around them was forever changed. They looked up and could never look backward again. Their destiny was sealed in the promise that they would receive the Holy Spirit as the Source of Comfort and Peace. Life would never be the same again.

Each of us is given that same promise. No matter what life tosses at us, we can always look up.