

"Blessing from God"



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Robert Buckner – August 11th, 2011

Dear Friends,

I know from personal experience that most of the time I am only been able to see a *"Blessing from God"* – from far, far back, in my *rear-view* mirror.

As much as I believe that I am faithful, vigilant and ever cognizant of serving God, I am wise enough to know that I likely only catch a very small portion of all that my Father does for me, moment-to-moment and day-to-day!

Man has many faults; being able to recognize God's constant blessings is not one of them.

I am very grateful and humbled when I read about some of the great men in the history of America who were obviously aware that the *Living God*, the *God of Creation*, watches over and blesses this nation!

I ask for God's forgiveness for every time I become *anxious* for what I think "I" can, or cannot do myself, to save this America! No matter how sincere one

might be how easy it is for arrogance to overcome the heart.

I pray that my confidence and my faith, will one day reach a point where I do not have to reel myself back into the realization that **EVERYTHING** and **EVERY** moment in time, is securely under the control of Him who made everything and time!

How many godly men whom we are not even aware of make up the fabric of this great nation? How many, in the course of their daily lives and various duties of their lives have contributed to the glory of God by advancing America through some wise deed or unselfish duty or service – first to God and residually – to America?

I pray that “my” generation would not be the weak thread in this fabric!

Robert

A very different and interesting conclusion of the December 7th attack on Pearl Harbor.

Tour boats ferry people out to the USS Arizona Memorial in Hawaii every thirty minutes.

We just missed a ferry and had to wait thirty minutes.

I went into a small gift shop to kill time.

In the gift shop, I purchased a small book entitled, "Reflections on Pearl Harbor" by Admiral Chester Nimitz.

Sunday, December 7th, 1941--Admiral Chester Nimitz was attending a concert in Washington D.C.

He was paged and told there was a phone call for him.

When he answered the phone, it was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

He told Admiral Nimitz that he (Nimitz) would now be the Commander of the Pacific Fleet.

Admiral Nimitz flew to Hawaii to assume command of the Pacific Fleet.

He landed at Pearl Harbor on Christmas Eve, 1941.

There was such a spirit of despair, dejection and defeat--you would have thought the Japanese had already won the war.

On Christmas Day, 1941, Adm. Nimitz was given a boat tour of the destruction wrought on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese.

Big sunken battleships and navy vessels cluttered the waters everywhere you looked.

As the tour boat returned to dock, the young helmsman of the boat asked, "Well Admiral, what do you think after seeing all this destruction?"

Admiral Nimitz's reply shocked everyone within the sound of his voice.

Admiral Nimitz said, "The Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could ever make, or God was taking care of America.

Which do you think it was?"

Shocked and surprised, the young helmsman asked, "What do mean by saying the Japanese made the three biggest mistakes an attack force ever made?"

Nimitz explained:

Mistake number one: the Japanese attacked on Sunday morning. Nine out of every ten crewmen of those ships were ashore on leave. If those same ships had been lured to sea and been sunk--we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800.

Mistake number two: when the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships, they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those ships.

If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow every one of those ships to America to be repaired. As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised. One tug can pull them over to the dry docks, and we can have them repaired and at sea by the time we could have towed them to America.

And I already have crews ashore anxious to man those ships.

Mistake number three: Every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war is on top of the ground in storage tanks five miles away over that hill.

One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply.

That's why I say the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could make, or God was taking care of America. I've never forgotten what I read in that little book. It is still an inspiration as I reflect upon it.

In jest, I might suggest that because Admiral Nimitz was a Texan, born and raised in Fredericksburg, Texas -- he was a born optimist. But any way you look at it--Admiral Nimitz was able to see God's blessings in a situation and circumstance where everyone else saw only despair and defeatism.

President Roosevelt had chosen the right man for the right job.

We desperately needed a leader that could see silver linings in the midst of the clouds of dejection, despair and defeat.

There is a reason that our national motto is, "**IN GOD WE TRUST.**"



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