

GREAT SERVANTS of GOD

By Paralee Eadie

They're the last to say that they are great,
They've walked with the Lord too long
To take credit for anything.
It was Jesus in them who was strong.

The world calls them humble, but they know
Apart from Jesus, their heart is black.
They've struggled with pride, and self, and fear,
The many times they've gotten off track.

Their great faith is not in themselves
But in a God who is faithful and true.
Their success came in believing God
And obeying all He told them to do.

Their lives testify of God's great love
And of His ability to use
A life fully surrendered to Him,
Who on the cross for our sin was bruised.

Some planted, some watered, some reaped.
Each did the job he was given,
Not seeking after the praise of man,
By the love of God they were driven.

Seeing their Saviour face to face,
Then falling at the feet of their Lord
And hearing Him say, "Well done, My child."
Will be their greatest reward.

"...and those who turn many to righteousness will glitter like stars forever."
Daniel 12:3b (TLB)

This poem is written for and dedicated to a great servant of God,
Billy Graham, for his 90th birthday.

Even though this poem was written for Billy Graham, it applies to every servant
of God, whether or not the world takes note of them.

There are some God chose to work in a public arena where their names would be recognized worldwide. There are some God chose to work in the most remote areas and with unknown and uncared about people. Their names and their service will be recognized by very few. Most of God's great servants fall somewhere in between these two extremes. While they do planting and reaping, their main service is watering, keeping alive and healthy those God has sent them to serve.

Because they have watered, those who had become dry and withered once more became vital and green. Because they've watered, the members of their congregations have grown. Because they've watered, their congregations have produced fruit, and the seeds of that fruit will go on to produce more and more fruit until the Lord comes. All because they watered!

Yet, they were not the source of the water - only the vessel. Jesus says in John 7:38, "He who believes in me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water'." It was those times alone with God in prayer and fellowship, in self-examination, testing and trying their hearts and motives against the plumbline of God's Word, those times of just sitting quietly in His presence in praise, reverence, and awe of who He is and what He has done. It was in those times that God filled them to overflowing with His rivers of living water that they might water others.

Now they've reached their "7th day" so to speak, their day of rest, even as God rested after 6 days of creation. God took time to view His work and saw that it was good - very good. It does not mean they will cease to work; God has not. Only God knows the flavor of the work He yet has for them to do - the individual lives He yet has for them to touch - the victories they will yet win on bended knee - the glories of fellowship in time yet to be spent alone with their Lord - the words they may yet write that will inspire generations to come - the works they may yet inspire in those following in their footsteps - for ceasing from work, "retirement", does not truly come until Heaven.

New adventures are ahead. Old adventures are treasures they will carry with them. Jesus says in Luke 10:2, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." And in John 4:35 He says, "Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest."

The mantle is being passed on. May it be, as it was with Elijah and Elisha, that a double portion of God's Spirit is poured out as one is taken away and another comes in that place, and God is glorified in both. Praise His holy name!!!