



## Monday Matters

### October 14, 2013

#### How Close Can You Get?

Fiction is not always my favorite type of book, but now and then I see a title I think is interesting. I also like history and stories about people. So, when I saw a book titled *I, Saul*, by Jerry B. Jenkins, I thought it would be interesting. It is what someone called, a plausible fiction. Many things in the book certainly could have been true, and there are many parts that are true. Both parts make this book a good read.

Most of the book is about Saul, who later took on his Greek name, Paul. Saul is mostly known as a power-house persecutor of early Christians...probably hunting them down, maybe even torturing them to death. He had a heart full of hate, until God called his name to preach the Gospel of Christ. His conversion is profound ... miraculous ... extraordinary in every sense of the word. It is the kind of conversion that leaves you awestruck.

The book starts out with Paul in prison for the cause of Christ. Luke visits him and describes the prison conditions. But Paul, in low and weak condition, is mentally excited that he is in prison



Just a Closer Walk With  
Thee Lynda Randle

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Quote of the Week

for Christ. And he is excited that he has little time left on this earth (1) because he will be able to proclaim the truth at his execution and (2) he will meet the Savior who loved him and did something Paul could not do for himself when the scales fell from his eyes - He imparted a free and marvelous salvation. And Paul was convinced that Jesus was the Lord.

As a Christian, Paul spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and had great zeal dedicated to the Gospel of Christ. Old things had passed away and ALL things had become new. From then on his passion for life was to preach the Gospel of Christ with the kind of fervor seldom seen or heard.

I am impressed with Paul's life, what he endured for the name of Christ and how he endured it. His zeal is a powerful inspiration to follow and love Christ, putting aside ALL other things of distraction. Paul knew he was not perfect, but he knew how to pull tighter to Christ and let Christ open his eyes about who Paul was with each breath he took. This transformation is so amazing because at one time in Paul's life he pronounced Jesus a fraud. His new life had a single devotion - Christ.



There is a story told by Lynn Allen about her Sunday School teacher as a teen. They questioned him about various topics - which ones were sin and which ones were not sin. In response he told them this story: *Back in the times of the Wild West, there was a man who had to allow his small son to ride the stage coach alone over a treacherous mountain range to another town. The dad went into the stage coach office and asked for the best driver they had. One man immediately spoke up and said, "Sir, I've been driving for many years, and I can keep the wheels of the coach to within 2 feet of the edge of the mountain's cliffs, and I've never had an accident." Another man chimed in and said, "I've been known to get within 1 foot of the edge of those cliffs and maintain complete control of the horses and stage coach." The third man said, "Well, sir, it's always been my policy to hug the mountain as close as I can." The teacher asked us, "Which man do you think got the job?"*

"The closer you walk with God, the less room for anything to come between."

~ Kristen Shea

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This is how Paul lived...he lived as close to Christ as he could. That is why his passion and zeal for God was influential and effective. Be inspired by Paul's life...live close to God's heart and let Him be your passion.

By Linda J. Nelson



Anthony Nelson and Family  
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