Lifelines

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Topic: Communication disruption

Denied Access to the Mountain
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I have had a really stressful week. My email and internet quit working, couldn't use any google stuff, no streaming, and spent an entire day calling and recalling Tech Support. I did all the various protocols, booting, rebooting, etc., etc., etc., including repeatedly loudly saying "I need a human!" into the phone, but there is never a human there. All I got was error messages, which I couldn't do anything about, because the internet was out! It took two days of stress, until a friend of mine, who is a computer technician, graciously came by to sort it all out.

Like so many other things in life, you don't know how important what you have is, until it is not accessible. High speed internet is great, until you don't have it, and you can't do your work. Some may notice that I did not send out my weekly column on Thursday, which this week was the longest day for me, trying to accomplish things on a land-line phone, which is full trap doors. For instance, I had to verify my identity, which they do by sending a code via email, which I was supposed to send back to them. But you can't because the email is out!

That was just one of numerous conversations I had with various representatives of the internet company, who were supposed to "support" me as a customer. Including a conversation about how the internet was cut off because we didn't pay the bill. Which, of course, we had paid, but couldn't verify, because guess why? Because the internet was out. It was like trying to make headway in a world where logic doesn't apply. If, as they said, they know it takes ten days for their bill to arrive at our home, doesn't that mean they should expect that our payment would also take ten days to travel to their office?

But thanks to my friend, with the technical skill and know-how, we got everything straightened out. So I am writing this column two days late, but thankfully, finally, I have internet that is connected and functional, so I will be able to send it out. But the whole thing made me feel like a mouse on a spinning wheel. And the worst part is, with so many other things to do, I can't get that time back.

I'm sure you have had experiences like this too. When things don't work like they should, we lose productivity, and begin to feel so frustrated by modern life. Our computers, our phones, and all manner of other "conveniences" are great as long as they are working perfectly, and we're glad to have them. But when things go sideways, those modern conveniences aren't so convenient anymore.

In that regard, today I feel like Joseph, who waited a long time for what God had promised about him to come to fruition. Joseph had the vision as a young man that he would one day rule over many, and his brothers would come to bow down before him. But he had to go through some things first.

He was sold by his brothers into slavery, and served quite a while as a slave and servant. He was also falsely accused and sent to prison as an innocent man. It was there that his ability to interpret dreams, under God's direction, got him out of that prison. Joseph's story is about one bad thing happening to him after another, but he never lost sight of his trust in God. Eventually, all these experiences led him to a very prominent place of power and service, which allowed him to save the

entire nation of Egypt, and Israel, from devastating famine, and to also save his own brothers who had been so cruel to him.

Before the time came for God to turn the situation around, Joseph experiences many bad days, far worse than most of us have ever had. In Psalm 105:19-20 (NLT) we read: "Until the time came to fulfill his dreams, the LORD tested Joseph's character. Then Pharaoh sent for him and set him free; the ruler of the nation opened his prison door."

When the time comes, our trying times come to an end, and God makes everything right! Thanks be to God! Do you know Him?

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