

Companions on the Journey

October 13, 2019

Dear Friends in Christ,

“For nothing is impossible with God.” That Scripture quote is found in the Gospel of Saint Luke in the section where the Archangel Gabriel, appearing to Mary in Nazareth, tells Mary that her kinswoman Elizabeth who has been unable to have a baby all her adult life is now six months pregnant and the Archangel says for “nothing is impossible with God.”

Usually we interpret that sentence in a way that means God can literally do anything. That there is not anything that God cannot do. That is a logical and common interpretation of those words. However, I would like to suggest a slightly different understanding of that expression. That will come in a moment.

There are times in our lives when we find ourselves confronted with certain profound fears, one of which is the fear of nothingness. What if there is nothing there? What if where I think God is, God really isn't? What if there is nothing there? How can I tell? How can I be sure? What guarantee do I have that there really is something there? Really is someone there? Really is not nothing?

Now, look at that line from Luke's gospel once again. “Nothing is impossible with God.” How about hearing it this way. Nothing? Why, that's impossible with God. Do you remember hearing that God created out of nothing? So here's the thought. Every time I am confronted with nothingness or the possibility of nothingness, every time that happens immediately the Lord says, that's impossible. BECAUSE? Because the very possibility of nothingness always gives rise in God to a creative burst. The original creation came from nothing. All that looks like there is nothing there or feels like there is nothing there gives rise to the divine outpouring of creativity. WHY? Because for God nothing—that just is not a possibility. Ever. Nunca as they say in Spanish. NEVER.

Our fear of nothingness cannot stand before the countenance of the Living God. That is why the Archangel Gabriel says so succinctly. Nothing—is impossible with God.” In other words Nothing does not exist. Nothing—will never exist. At all. Ever. Then why do we think it does? The enemy sows that seed of doubt. That does not come from the Living God. That comes from the enemy. And we fear it and we are tempted to believe it and it leads us into doubt. And who wins when I live in doubt? Well it certainly isn't me and it certainly isn't the Lord.

This may seem to be unimportant but I assure you, getting the proper understanding of this line from the Word of God is very important and it has an effect on the way we think and that affects what we do. Nothing? That is impossible. With God.

In the Peace of Christ,

Msgr. McHenry