

Soul Soar



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Eternally Speaking Now*

I love **clouds**. When they appear like they did a few weeks ago, I'm left in awe and wonder.

The pictures above barely capture the extent of God's beauty that plastered the sky from horizon to horizon one morning earlier this month.

There wasn't a portion of the sky abandoned by this scene;
from north to east to south to west,
these glorious **cloud** patterns repeated for all creation to appreciate.

The **clouds** were stunning.

They left me breathless, stirring me deep within.

I wanted to jump out of my skin and fly into the blanketed ripples.

I felt like singing.

The sight made my **soul soar**.

Like many of you, I've discovered the thrill of connecting **clouds** to the **glory** of God and His presence. The link between the two is echoed throughout the Bible. Maybe that's why **clouds** can be so emotionally impacting. Is it possible we are born with an intuitive awareness of the relationship between **clouds** and the **presence** of God?

Check out these Scriptures from the Old Testament:

"Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, **the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.**" *Exodus 16:10*

"Now **the glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it** six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses **out of the midst of the cloud...**
So Moses **went into the midst of the cloud** and went up into the mountain."
Exodus 24:16, 18

"Then **the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.**
And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because **the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.**" *Exodus 40:34-35*

"Now it happened, when the congregation had gathered against Moses and Aaron, that they turned toward the tabernacle of meeting; and suddenly **the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD appeared.**"
Numbers 16:42

"And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that **the cloud filled the house of the LORD,** so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the **cloud;** for **the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.**"
1 Kings 8:10-11 & 2 Chronicles 5:14

"Then **the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub, and paused over the threshold of the temple; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the LORD's glory.**"
Ezekiel 10:4

As God led His people throughout the wilderness, His very **presence** was in the form of a **cloud**. Literally. In Numbers 14, Moses reminds God that *even their enemies knew this of Him.*

"They (our enemies) have heard that **You, Lord, are among these people;** that **You, Lord, are seen face to face and Your cloud stands above them,** and **You go before them in a pillar of cloud by day** and in a pillar of fire by night." *Numbers 14:14b*

Clouds represent the glorious, manifest presence of God.

A few days after I saw those amazing **clouds** and revisited these wonderful Scriptures, I was hit with an incredibly challenging situation. What made it most difficult was that it involved something that had repeatedly occurred, yet I was unaware of it-- that is, unaware in my mind. I can look back now and see how I had spiritually sensed something was 'off,' but I couldn't put my finger on it, so I hadn't done anything about it at the time.

As things came to the **light**,
it was gut-wrenching and hard to endure.
My heart was wounded.
It was like a **storm** had hit my **soul**,
leaving it...**sore**.

In the process of dealing with all this, I talked with Jesus frequently, sharing with Him how much I was hurting. The day after I'd had what I'd call a raw and emotional monologue with the Lord, a woman called, unaware of all I was experiencing.

I've referred to this lady in a previous writing,
and now I've got to share her name with you: it's Sue Bell.
God knew what He was doing when He granted her that name,
because He prompts her with songs to sing to others.
He's given her a unique, encouraging, Spirit-led ministry that
points many to Christ. And when my phone 'bell' rang that day, it was her.
With a song. *About **storms**. And **clouds**.*

Following are the lyrics to the song she sang:

Til the **storm** passes over
Til the **thunder** sounds no more
Til the **clouds** roll forever from the sky
Hold me fast
Let me stand
In the hollow of Your hand
Keep me safe
Til the **storm** passes by

After our phone call, the Holy Spirit led me to another slew of my favorite **cloud** verses, this time from the New Testament. Here they are:

When Jesus took Peter, James, and John
up the mountain to witness His transfiguration,
"a **bright cloud overshadowed them;**
and suddenly a voice came out the cloud, saying,
"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"
Matthew 17:5

When Jesus ascended to sit at the right hand of the Father,
"**He was taken up, and a cloud received Him** out of their sight."
Acts 1:9

And when Jesus comes back for His believers,
"...we who are alive and remain shall be
caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.
And thus we shall always be with the Lord."
1 Thessalonians 4:17

Upon reading these verses, somehow God pulled all the pieces together,
providing a timely reminder:

He never leaves or forsakes those who put their trust in Him.

Throughout this entire situation and in the midst of my **inner turmoil**,
He had been present,
He had been near,
He had been with me all along.

No matter what happens, God is **with us**. He is **in our midst**, even when we
are in the **dark** or when we find ourselves under the **shadow** of
a **stormy cloud**.

"The Lord reigns; let the earth rejoice;
let the multitude of isles be glad!
Clouds and darkness surround Him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne."
Psalm 97:1-2

Can you guess what happened after all this?

The Lord healed my **sore soul**, and my **soul soared** yet again.

"Sing to God, sing praises to His name;
extol Him who rides on the clouds, by His name Yah,
and rejoice before Him."
Psalm 68:4

CHALLENGE

*Is your **soul sore**?*

Our **soul** is generally defined as being comprised of the **mind, will, and emotions**.

Is your **mind** beaten down by plaguing thoughts of regret, fear, unknowns, and what-ifs?

Is your **will** cowering in defeat under the **weight** of persistent strongholds-- things in your life that won't go away or get healed?

Are your **emotions** showing the wear and tear of living in a world beguiled by sin?

Has life left you
stunned,
out of breath,
stirred up deep within,
leaving your **soul sore**?

Do you want to
jump out of your skin sometimes and just fly away?

I understand.

And I believe the

brilliant,

soothing,

there's-nothing-quite-like-it,

glory of God

is an effective prescription for a **sore soul**.

Notice in Exodus 24 (above) that Moses **actively entered into the cloud** as he met with God on the mountain. Exodus 34 then reveals that, as a result of spending time with the Lord, Moses' face **glowed so brightly** that he had to cover his face when he returned from the mountain. My guess is his **soul** was **soaring**.

As you seek the Lord, may His **manifest presence** come like a **cloud** and make your **soul soar**.

Flashback: Read this Writing about a Vision of Jesus in the Clouds



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