

## *Real Life Stories God Is In Control*

At one time, and perhaps even today, there was a gift shop at the USS Arizona Memorial in Hawaii. In it there was a booklet called, "Reflections on Pearl Harbour" by Admiral Chester Nimitz.

On Sunday, December 7th, 1941, Admiral Chester Nimitz received a phone call from the President of the USA, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He told the Admiral that he was the Commander of the Pacific Fleet. Flying to assume command of the Pacific Fleet, he landed at Pearl Harbour on Christmas Eve 1941. It was a state of hopelessness and low morale.

The next day the Admiral was given a boat tour of the destruction at Pearl Harbour by the Japanese. Sunken battleships and navy vessels cluttered the water everywhere you looked. As the tour boat returned to dock, the young helmsman of the boat asked, "Well Admiral, what do you think after seeing all this destruction?" To the amazement of everyone within hearing the Admiral said, "The Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could ever make, or God was taking care of America. Which do you think it was?" The young Helmsman was amazed and asked the Admiral, "What do mean by saying the Japanese made the three biggest mistakes an attack force ever made?"

Admiral Nimitz explained:

- a) Mistake number one: The Japanese attacked on Sunday morning. Nine out of every ten crewmen of those ships were ashore on leave. If those same ships had been lured to sea and been sunk, we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800.
- b) Mistake number two: When the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those ships. If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow every one of those ships to America to be repaired. As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised. One tug can pull them over to the dry docks and we can have them repaired and at sea by the time we could have towed them to America.
- c) Mistake number three: Every drop of fuel in the Pacific theatre of war is on top of the ground storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply. No Doubt God was in control.

Today the reader many be facing a situation or be in the midst of a happening beyond their comprehension which has filled them with hopelessness. They put on a happy face but deep inside their heart is breaking, their mind knows nothing of rest. It is not only present hopelessness but as they look to the future they know not what way to turn and it all is so very dark. The depression hangs over them as a thick cloud suppressing any glimpse of light. They wonder, "Where is God in all of this?" The children of Israel felt the same way when they came out of Egypt. They were not long on the road when there was no water. Water is not a luxury in the desert it is a necessity. What was God doing? The Lord told the disciples to go over the sea and then in the midst of the sea there was a great storm, why did the Lord send them on such a voyage? The lessons become so clear. The Lord brings us, or lets us be brought into situations beyond our control so that we learn to trust Him irrespective of the wind and waves and enter into the fulness of His sufficiency in every situation. We learn in time that God is in control.

At this time, 2020, the pandemic coronavirus is sweeping the world. Do we have a God who is in control? Some might say if God was would He let His children catch this virus. I know a beloved brother and sister in Christ who have deep storms. He was hit by West Nile and ended up virtually incapable of moving. Then his daughter in-law got the virus, His son is being tested, they have two girls. What a storm they are going through. I know that if they did not believe God is in control they would have lost all hope long ago.

No matter what the situation is, let us look up for God is still on the Throne and He is still in control. Let each saint take the motto of the USA as our own, "In God we trust", and live in the goodness of its truth.