



“I Would That You Were Hot or Cold”

“Uhg! It’s so hot! It’s too hot to get anything done!” and so was the understanding while in the Philippines. The heat was quite stifling, and early morning work had to be done before the sun rose high into the sky. Any time from 5 am to about noon (1 pm was really pushing it) was best for the first part of the day. Yet so often, even though the team would come in from the heat about 12:30 or 1 pm, the power would be out.

With no air conditioning and only fans to rely on for moving air, it was nearly impossible to cool down. As a backup, the generator would be turned on and often run all day or late into the evening when maybe the power would come back on. The generator is terribly loud, so running it at night right outside our bedrooms was not ideal. Either we’d lose sleep because it was too loud or lose sleep because it was too hot. Sometimes it was both. Sometimes, the fans would

stop in the middle of the night while it was still almost 80 degrees Fahrenheit outside. During that time, many prayers would ascend. “Please, LORD; may the power come back on!”

Yet there’s a spiritual parallel in these moments of heat. God has to burn off that dross of our sins and weaknesses in the “fire,” that is, the discomfort of our circumstances to perfect our characters. This provisions for us to be like Him in character and in love.

On the other hand, in contrast to the heat, when it’s super cold and in the 20s at night and 30s during the day, it can make things just as difficult to get any work done in the hangar. Trying to wrench on an engine or pull spark plugs when your fingers are numb isn’t the best of situations and can even be painful—especially if your grip slips. Even with



an insulated hangar, a diesel heater, and a propane heater, once they turn off, it's cold again.

In 2 Corinthians 11, verse 27, Paul speaks about all his trials and tribulations, about being weary and even cold, yet in these adverse circumstances, as he serves and stays faithful to God, it is all to God's glory. Paul can boast of his human infirmities and weaknesses because where he falls short and is without strength, God makes up for it, becoming his strength in weakness. God is his hope in the darkness and the turmoil. God is his victory in adversity.

There is something to be said of being either hot or cold, as Christ speaks of in Revelation 3:15. Being hot or cold, there is a certain urgency we feel: do something about it! We take action, and our drive, in those moments, to do something about it is usually greater than those moments we're lukewarm and comfortable.

Being comfortable while in service to God isn't productive. In terms of weather, when Kyle is working, "comfortable" can be a nice reprieve, even coming into the office to cool down or warm up—however, the dynamics of hot to cold bring about a notable outcome. The refining of character is the yield. Like a sword being forged, the hot and cold hardens and strengthens the steel as it's pounded and worked. This example is what being a missionary is all about; you are being changed as you seek to point others to Christ for Him to change them, too. And sometimes God uses airplanes.

Colossians 1:10-12 says, "that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light."

The plane has to be taken care of no matter the temperature outside; the mission must be done. It's a work of patience and longsuffering. However, because it's for the kingdom and because it is a lifesaving work, joy is tasted.

Our circumstances as missionaries are rarely ideal, and our comfort is rarely promised, but we can always be comfortable in Jesus. See Jeremiah 29:11. Thank you for your support and for being the missionary to the missionaries.

God bless!

Until Next Time,

Kyle, Rebecca, and Hadahsa Stevenson



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