HOLD ON TO THE ROPE

**25** Then the disciples took him by night, and let *him* down by the wall in a basket. Acts 9:25 (KJV)

 A few years back, after a tornado had hit the school in Enterprise, the pastor of one of the Baptist churches in the area spoke at the Alabama Baptist State Convention. Some of the points of his message have stayed with me ever since. I would like to share some of those thoughts as well as some that the Lord has given me from this text.

 It seems from the text that this was the first time Paul, or Saul, had stood for the Lord. See verses 19-22. Although it was his first time there were still people that didn’t trust him and some who did not like what he said. Therefore, we see that there were people willing to kill him right from the start of his ministry. It seems there was plenty of reason to second guess his decision to follow Christ but from the beginning he had some friends who trusted him and held to the rope to help him escape. Because of our prayers and our help, people are furthered in the ministry. There are some good reasons for us to hold on to the rope.

 One reason is to keep them alive in their ministry. Paul had nothing to turn back to. If he had turned back he would have been killed. By our prayers we may be keeping someone’s ministry alive. We may never know how valuable our prayers have been to someone, so just hold on to the rope until they have safely landed. Another reason is that we do not know how strong the person is in the basket. They might be a reasonably strong person but because of their circumstances have become so weak they can hardly hold on. Thus we must hold the tighter. They could be young in the faith and need someone older in the faith helping and aiding them to escape Satan and his attacks. Hold on to the rope! I’ll never forget hearing that pastor say “we never know, from where we are, just how far it is to the bottom.” Hold on to the rope. It could be devastating to turn loose now. They may be too far from the bottom. To turn loose now could have the same effects as letting them be taken by the enemy. Hold on to the rope. They need to be let down easy.

 We must hold on to the rope and pray for our brothers and sisters. By being prayer warriors in their stead we are holding the rope. They need our encouragement. Hold to the rope and exalt them higher than ourselves. Hold to the rope that is also anchored in Heaven. You see as we hold in prayer we are not dependent on ourselves to hold the rope but we have divine help also. God bless you and hold on to the rope!

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram