MY BROTHER

He (the king) asketh life of thee (God), and thou gavest it him,

even length of days for ever and ever. Psalms 21:4

 I began preaching in January 1978. Not long into my ministry (about a month later) I was asked to preach at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. I was still pretty new in the work, so my mother, two sisters, and my brother, along with my wife, came to support me. The pastor called on me at preaching time and I took the stand and proceeded to really do a pathetic job of preaching. The only good thing was that it only took about 5 minutes. I was so discouraged. I felt it had to be the worst attempt at preaching that had ever been tried.

 The pastor stepped to the altar and extended the invitation. Much to my surprise someone came to the altar and it was my brother! I bowed with him and when he was finished praying I asked if he was okay. He told me that he felt much better. Some years later he and I were doing a little Saturday job and had the radio playing. “The Old Ship Of Zion” was playing. My brother said that there was something about that song that always “got to him.” I felt led to ask about his experience of grace. He told me that he gave his heart to the Jesus the morning that he came to the altar at Pleasant Hill.

 It is so encouraging to know that when you feel you’re at your weakest, God is at his best. God took my stammering speech and made it understandable that morning. Why should I be surprised? He spoke a world into existence from nothing!

 God has taken that little brother of mine and has called him into the ministry, called him to be a pastor, saved folks through his ministry and blessed many, many more.

 Don’t ever count anyone off. You may hear a minister take the stand and you may think he is just fumbling through his message but just remember that God’s Word will not return void. His Word always counts. It has a target and it will hit its mark.

 There are still times I feel pretty lousy over some feeble attempt of preaching but I try to remember **my little brother**. To God be the glory! Great things he hath done!

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram