

## THE YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOR

Isaiah 61:1-4

Monday, December 11, 2017

Isaiah 61:1-2 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. (ESV)

As I am writing this devotional, Hurricane Harvey is devastating southeastern Texas. I am witnessing via television and Facebook some of the miseries that God's people are experiencing: mourning for lost loved ones, loss of home and personal belongings, lack of clothing and food supplies. How this brings home to me the experience of the June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and the flood's aftermath in our area. I remember the rushing water through our front yard, the destruction of roadways and homes, the loss of lives and those who barely escaped with their lives. Yet, God was with us and the Spirit of the Lord was there in the hearts of all who gave their time and resources to "raise up" the fallen, to rebuild "a beautiful headdress" from the destroyed homes, to "bind up the brokenhearted" with tons of food and clothing. I again see this Spirit in the hearts of those assisting the storm victims in Texas, as churches open their buildings with families to overflowing, as many risk their own lives to rescue others and the outpouring of food and clothing to those in need.

As we are approaching the Christmas season, everyone thinks of the Spirit of "giving", just as we do when there is an emergency crisis. But we need to remember, the need for us to give is year-round, every day, every hour. There are families whose homes are unlivable; there are children who are hungry every day; there are lonely folks who just need a hug or a smile, all in our local neighborhoods. May we see the need and fill it to overflowing.

**Prayer:** Dear God, Heavenly Father, May the "Spirit" fill our hearts daily to raise up the brokenhearted and give ourselves wholly to your work here on earth. You have blessed us with many talents and resources; may we use them for others.

AMEN

Karen K. Grafton, Mt. Olive UMC, Greenbrier District, Lookout, WV  
[kaygee@frontier.com](mailto:kaygee@frontier.com)