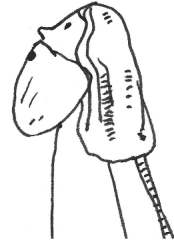


Moment of Clarity – Joseph

By Major Ann Montgomery

Matthew 1:18-24 (NIV)



Have you ever experienced driving in thick, dense fog, struggling to see what's on the road ahead of you. the wipers are going and the lights are on but it doesn't seem to make any difference? It really is not pleasant. in fact, it can be quite scary. until... the fog clears and you almost audibly give a sigh of relief. you can see again. the way is clear once more.

Joseph heard the news that Mary was 'with child through the Holy Spirit' (v18).

I imagine he may have felt as though he was in a bit of a fog. suddenly the way ahead was no longer as clear as he had thought it was going to be and he needed to decided what to do next. Joseph was a good and righteous man. he did not want to bring shame upon Mary. after all he cared for her. so his first thought was not to cause her unnecessary pain or to seek justice. but rather it was to quietly. discreetly. end their relationship.

Did Joseph lie down to sleep that night with a flood of thoughts streaming through his mind - was he angry at God? Why did God choose Mary? Couldn't He have chosen someone else? What would people say?

I guess the fog as he lay down to sleep may have been getting denser. was he planning on telling Mary what he had decided to do in the morning?

However. God was at work. God knew Joseph's heart. and Joseph's own plans were not to be. for an angel appeared to Joseph as he slept and said. 'Joseph son of David. do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son. and you are to give him the name Jesus. because he will save his people from their sins' (v21.22). Joseph would have known this was the fulfilment of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 7:14).

Joseph woke from his sleep having met with God through the dream. He woke with a clearer mind. a clearer way forward. he even knew what he was to name the baby - and what power is in the beautiful name of Jesus.

God was in the finest detail. The fog had lifted!

His confusion was changed to clarity. even in the fog, God was there. He was Lord in that place as well as on the clear days.

What do we do when we find ourselves in that place of confusion. not sure of the way ahead. when we feel as though the fog has descended - do we search for God. seek His face. do we acknowledge that He is still Lord in that place?

May God change our moments of confusion to moments of clarity as we continue to trust in the name of Jesus. believing God is in the detail of our lives.

*We bow down and confess You are Lord in this place
You are all I need. It's your face I seek
In the presence of your light
We bow down. we bow down.
(Viola Graftstrom)*