

## Bustin' Out Faith

As I was thinking about our time together in the newspaper, I wondered what it would take for your faith come alive so that others can see it. Here we are at the beginning of June, and the stage is set for wonderful things to happen. They can be quite ordinary and boring, or distinctly spectacular and amazing. It's a simple choice, and only God can make it possible.

One of the songs from the movie "Carousel" lifts up the "bustin' out" idea. June doesn't slide in. It doesn't meander in. It busts in, to use the slang of the word burst, and gives a little more power to the word without the letter r.

June is bustin' out all over!  
All over the meadow and the hill!  
Buds're bustin' outa bushes  
And the rompin' river pushes  
Ev'ry little wheel that wheels beside the mill!

This enthusiasm, this energy, this feeling is what many Christians who are mired in routine and sameness need to find to make faith what it is supposed to be. Either we scratch around the barnyard like chickens ( no offense to those chickens out there) or fly on wings of eagles, as the prophet Isaiah proclaims. Again, it's a choice, and God is ready for the powerful one.

The image of buds bustin' out of bushes reminds us that God send Jesus Christ to make us come alive. The new life God offers is a life of possibility, miracle, and destiny. We have beautiful rose bushes outside the church office windows. Over the winter they were cut back to brown twigs just a few feet tall. But now they are literally bustin' out all over. The warm weather, the sunshine, and the rain nurture the buds to bust into flowers which thrill and excite. There are hundreds of beautiful colorful blooms on four bushes.

The flowers are here for a little while, like us, and then they fade away for new ones to take their places. We fertilize and prune the bushes, but God is the one who provides the blooming power and creates the beautiful flowers which bust out. Our blessing is to be that flower.

I hate to mention it, but there are things which prevent flowering and faithing. The bugs and diseases which afflict roses are there, and must be treated with the various ives and medicines. The branches which die must be pruned away. Even the flowers must be removed when they have gotten older and floppy, and new ones will grow in the same place. It is amazing how pruning makes possible new growth.

The disease of sin certainly attacks us as we seek to bust out. Branches which do not bear fruit are eventually pruned out or fall away. What God wants to happen is for all of us to flower and bust out, so that people will see Jesus, the ultimate flower. The Rose of Sharon or the Lily of the Valley are two names the scriptures use for Jesus.

Sticklers for correct vocabulary useage may be more concerned that we choose to use the word bust rather than its more correct form burst. This is a great illustration of the danger of majoring on the minor points instead of seeing the great truths God can unlock in our lives.

Just the language of the first verse of the song above shows the power of words and thoughts which make quite ordinary things full of energy and progress. Rivers can be quite ordinary in the winter. Frozen over, shrunken by winter drought to a fraction of their great size. And wheels, among the greatest inventions of mankind, can sit in piles on junkheaps and rust away, never being used for their purpose.

But when you hear the words "every rompin' river pushes every little wheel that wheels beside the mill, then there's a picture of life coming to be!

The power of the mighty river pushing little wheels which drive the mighty grindstone which grinds the grain and can now ever provide electricity for millions, now that's what I'm talkin' about!

That's what God wants to do with our faith. He wants us to stop swilling in the backwaters of tepid faith which go nowhere, and push out into the mighty river of faith which gives life to so many.

I am reminded of the Nile River which gives life to the desert of Egypt. I see the parting of the Red Sea as the people escaped the army of Pharaoh on dry land. I see the Sea of Galilee where Jesus calmed the storm and called his disciples to go to the other side.

We are all wheels, some larger some smaller, in the church of faith. It is essential that we find our spot and turn, unleashing tremendous amounts of bustin' out faith, as the spiritual rivers of God give that power to the construction.

Those wheels turn to bring people bloom, to feed the hungry, to tell others about Jesus, to grow Christians in faith which is so full of God's love and power that it cannot help but overflow, or bust out, on a daily basis.