It is the signal. I have to go. It was wonderful to be with You. I want also to tell You, and You know it, that the battle will be hard: it could be that, in this very night, I'll come to knock at Your door.
And even though up to now I haven't been Your friend, when I come, will You let me come in?

But what's this? Am I crying?
My Lord God, You see what has happened:
only now I've begun to see clearly …
Farewell, my God, I am going. It's scarcely possible that I'll return.
Strange; Death now has no fear for me.

…

I won't add to this. I'll just suggest you might like to take a line from Aleksander's prayer and make it your own.

In that place of hardship, God remembered Aleksander and gave him what he needed.

They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning,
We will remember them.

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Caraway
Spiritually Resourcing the Older Person

The God Who Gives

A few weeks ago I visited a lady living with dementia. A lady living on her own in Southampton. Her dementia was advanced but within her limits she was still witty, warm, and welcoming.

Toward the end of the visit I suggested we use Psalm 23 to pray together. As we began praying this lady was able to recall and speak aloud key sentences from this ancient text. I expect she remembered them from her school days. I asked if there was a particular part of the Psalm that stood out to her. Slowly but surely she replied "God gives me everything I need."

In a place of hardship she was able to vouch for the God who supplied what she needed.

God helped her remember what He is like.

God helped her realize who He is.

Simple truths that I and many people miss in the noise of life.

How about you?
Do you remember the God who remembers you?
God gives good to you.

PAUSE

Remember God is with you now and always. You might like to use the words of this Psalm as a prayer:

I will remember the deeds of the Lord;
yes, I will remember Your wonders of old.

I will ponder all Your work,
and meditate on Your mighty deeds.

Your way, O God, is holy.
What god is great like our God?

You are the God who works wonders;
You have made known Your might
among the peoples.
(Psalm 77.11-14)

REMEMBERING WAR

At this time of year we begin to remember something different.

We remember amazing people from many decades ago who fought, and gave their lives for the freedom of their children, and for us.

We also remember those fighting in wars now.

We pray for peace, we pray for an end to war, we especially pray for the children caught up in senseless violence.

A SOLDIER REALIZES

In 1972 a newspaper published a prayer found in the jacket of a Russian soldier. The soldier's name was Aleksander Zatzepta. He wrote the prayer moments before a Second World War battle in which he died.

Here is the full text of his prayer:

O God, hear me! Not once in my life have I ever spoken to You, but today I feel the urge to make You an act of worship.

You know that even from my infancy they always told me that You didn't exist … I, stupid, believed them.
I had never marveled at Your great works. But tonight I looked up from out of a shell hole at the heaven of stars above me!
And fascinated by their brilliant magnificence all at once I understood how terrible the deception …

I don't know, O God, if You will give me Your hand. But I say this to You, and You understand.

Isn't it strange, that in the midst of a terrible inferno, the light should appear to me and I should have discovered You?
Beyond this I have nothing to say to You. I am happy just because I have known You.
At midnight we must attack,
but I have no fear, You are looking out for us.