

AN EXISTENTIAL DAY AT THE BEACH

(Peace Conquers Chaos)

In the midst of this deadly pandemic, the political craziness, and racism rearing its ugly head, I have often been reminded of Randy Stonehill's song "*Stop the world, I want to get off!*" Kristen and I remembered that we do live only a few miles from the beach, so in the midst of our all-time record-breaking hot temperatures (well over 100 degrees in Oct!) we took a day off to relax and enjoy the beach.

Towards the end, just before the sunset, we were rewarded with a spectacular experience from God. For a moment, time stood still. There was no Covid-19 or politics. God's gentle finger caressed my face as the breeze reminded me of His *constant presence* with us ... surrounding us ("*Lo, I am with you always*" Matt. 28:20 ... So don't fly on a plane or get high! 🤪). God gently whispered in my ear as the melodic sound of the ocean lapping the shore reminded me of His constant, never-ending, *unconditional love* (I Cor. 13:6-8). The Shekinah glory of God shone across the ocean as the light from the sun glistened and sparkled and reflected off the water in a straight line directly to me! Physics confirms that wherever I would walk up or down that beach, the light would look like it was shining directly at me and no one else. Even though He created billions of people, He still cares about me individually like I was the only one on the planet. And His light directs my path and leads me in the direction He knows is best for me. "*The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned*" (John 4:16).

In that moment, as time ceased, nothing else in the world mattered ... only that God was there, surrounding me with His all-encompassing presence, His unending unconditional love, and His promise to light my path and give me direction to navigate this chaotic life.

Our experience at the beach was a much-needed, refreshing reminder that God is with us through it all and ... after the chaos settles, in the end everything will be all right! *God will keep you in perfect peace when your mind is focused on HIM* (Is. 26:3).