

Clouds come floating into my life, no longer to carry rain or usher a storm, but to add color to my skies.



Sunday evening about 6:45 I am traveling over Lookout Mountain from Fort Payne. It has rained on and off most of the day and dark clouds had filled the skies. As I approach Mount Vernon Missionary Baptist Church; I look up into the sky and am amazed at what I see. Where once all that could be seen are gloomy gray clouds and rain, now I could see patches of blue skies surrounded by brilliant reds and yellows.

I pull the car over into the cemetery of the church and as I look out over the tomb stones I took this photo. The day before I watched the sunset from Mount Cheaha State Park (Highest point in Alabama), but that could not compare with the breath taking beauty I witnessed here in this graveyard. Saturday, the scenery was much better; I was looking out over the Talladega National Forrest watching the sun set in the west. Sunday, I surrounded by grave markers in a crowded cemetery.

Why was this sunset so much more stunning than Saturday's? What was the difference between the two sunsets? It was not location; because you could not top the view I had Saturday. It was not the company I had; Saturday my company was couples in love, arm in arm and Sunday, I was in the middle of a graveyard. So what made the difference? It was the clouds. The same clouds that produced rain most of the day, now was adding beauty and color to my life.

How often this is true. The very things we shun and avoid so often produce good things in our lives. We avoid the difficult task not realizing it builds character and success. The medicine tastes bad, but it speeds healing. We shun exercise, and fail to appreciate how it builds endurance and strength. We look over the needy people in our lives and starve our own souls. We fail to see those who are "different" than us and miss the blessings of diversity. Too often instead of being color blind, we are blinded by color.

The bottom line is this; problems are going to come, ready or not. Are we going to avoid them or embrace them? Pretend they do not exist or benefit from them? The choice is up to us. So what are you going to do when the clouds come into your life? Run or Look up?

**Something to think about:**

- ❖ Often the cloud which wraps the present hour,  
Serves but to brighten all our future days!
- ❖ Clouds of doubt are created when the warm, moist air of our expectations meets the cold air of God's silence. The problem is not as much in God's silence as it is in your ability to hear.
- ❖ Know what you want to do, hold the thought firmly, and do every day what should be done, and every sunset will see you that much nearer the goal.
- ❖ Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others bring sunshine to their own.

Your colorful companion  
Rickey Moore