

*Come Holy Spirit
Use me to Your glory*

Precious Pilgrim,

Have you ever tried to fix someone or something from the vantage point of an imaginary soapbox? Goodness gracious. I have! As a matter of fact, it's one of my most favorite viewing stands. I mentally climb up high onto my self-designed judgment platform and start non-verbally lecturing what everyone should do, must do, ought to do, has to do in order to fix themselves or their situations to my liking. Sometimes, more often than I'd like to admit, after I've played this silent tape in my brain a few times and started believing, "Boy, I'm good and have got the infallible answer to this problem," I've been known to spew down these pearls of piety onto the undeserving victims.

All a person has to do is barely mention a little problem or an uncomfortable situation, show a wart or a blemish, and even without them asking, I'll make a Clark Kent-Superman metamorphosis. Instead of doing my wardrobe change in a closet, I run for that blasted higher-than-thou soapbox stand I've created in my brain. If actions speak louder than words, I'm communicating, "Move over, here I come." Lucy the Wise Wonder Woman.

What invariably seems to happen from this vantage point is that my words fall like bombs on the undeserving victims. Instead of empowering them, I knock the wind out of their

sails. Why, they can hardly get a word in edgewise. I don't actually say, "Your ideas and solutions don't count, and mine are right and yours are wrong," but I'm afraid that's what comes across. They usually can't even finish a sentence without me interrupting them. It is awful. Lord Jesus, please forgive.

I woke up unintentionally this morning at 4:30. The alarm clock mistakenly went off. We'd had a power shortage yesterday, and I hadn't corrected the time. I jumped out of bed, ran in the dark, and found the little monster. I hit every one of its buttons until it was quiet. Then I stumbled back into bed and started thinking about one of my loved ones. I wanted to go back to sleep, but before I'd even realized it, I had mentally begun climbing the ladder of my lecture pulpit.

I was concerned over some of their recent actions and thought it was time to fix and inform and reform them.

The alarm clock went off again. Thank goodness!

Apparently, in hitting all the buttons, the one that took a direct hit was the snooze alarm. It acted like an electric shock. I jumped, ran, pulled the plug, ran back, jumped and settled back into the cozy covers of my bed. I was eagerly anticipating the continuation and completion of my complaint and fix list. I was having a grand time and was once again, thinking. "Boy, I'm good at this," when the words spoken unexpectedly a few days ago by a dear friend entered my psyche and enfolded my soul and convicted my spirit.

"Lucy, I forgive you," she said.

Ow! Those words had been given after having betrayed a confidence and instead of praying for a situation as I had been asked to do, I tried to jump in on my own and tried to fix it. On remembering once more these actions, thank the dear Lord, my imaginary ladder toppled. My imaginary platform collapsed. The list disintegrated.

Precious Pilgrim, are you also in possession of a soapbox, one used to try and fix others? May I recommend a demolition crew coming in and disassembling it? Any ole Christian or a bit of God's Holy Word will do, as long as Jesus is reflected. His power will penetrate and pulverize any heightened false pride. To be effective, we are to do our work on bended knee as opposed to a heightened position. Only One, our Lord Jesus, is to be on high, and He earned that place from the cross.

The Holy Spirit does give gifts of discernment and counsel and wisdom to Christ's followers, but to be effective users, we must constantly watch from which vantage point we are operating - Christ's or our own.

Jesus said in John 14:26, "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my Name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."

Pilgrim, I'll be in touch. I've got a little bit more disassembling to do before the day begins. We are to keep our eyes on Jesus.

Yea! By God's grace, my ladder is toppling.

By God's grace, my platform is collapsing.

By God's grace, my fix-it list is disintegrating.

Pilgrim, is yours getting a bit wobbly, too? Peace.

*Psalm 37:12 says, "But the lowly shall possess the land.
They will delight in abundance of peace."*

*Precious Pilgrim, may we dwell in a state of lowliness
where only our Lord is exalted.*

I am your sister in Christ,

Lucy