



MONDAY, August 3, 2009:

Quotations that matter:

- ❑ *“Decisions are made by human beings who are fallible; at their best their works do not last long. Even the best decision has a high probability of being wrong. Even the most effective one eventually becomes obsolete.”* \_Peter F. Drucker, The Essential Drucker

This week I thought I'd focus on some of the quotations that I've collected over the years that have had a special impact in my life.

Today's quotation really helps me. At first glance, it sounds a little hopeless and depressing. But really it is good news.

First, it takes the pressure off. The goal in life is not to bat 100% - nobody does. Even in the major leagues the best of the best never get four out of ten attempts right. Our job is to simply do the very best we can this week. The goal is not to win every argument, achieve success at every endeavor or be number one every time. The goal is to faithfully give our best.

We should also ease up on others. They are not going to be perfect either. People will fail you this week; they'll let you down and even act like sinners. Remember another good quotation: *“God has forgiven you; you'd be wise to do the same.”*

Lean on God this week. Our hope for success does not depend upon our cleverness or other people's abilities, but rather the faithful perfection of a good and loving Father God.

So relax! Work hard; do your best but leave the rest to God. Oh, and by the way...have fun this week!©

**SCRIPTURE:** Exodus 15:2

TUESDAY, August 4, 2009:

Quotations that matter:

- ❑ *“Your lack of planning does not constitute an emergency for me.”*

This past week I made a trip to Panama to review our mission's work there. It was to be a quick 48 hours turn around to review our work there and then get back home and back to my busy schedule here.

However, the trip ended up taking an extra day. The reason was that I missed my connecting flight back to Charlotte. So at 11:30 p.m. on a Tuesday night I found myself checking into a motel in Miami, Florida.

I tried to “spiritualize” the event by saying, maybe the plane was going to crash (just as if God cared about me and not all the other passengers!), or that there was something that God needed me to do in Miami.

But then it was as if I could hear God chuckling and saying don't put the responsibility for missing your flight on me! Your lack of planning does not constitute an emergency for me!

In other words, God was reminding me that He loves me and will watch over me but He doesn't commit to bail me out of every little problem.

Hey, life happens. Not every flat tire is God saving you from a wreck up the road, sometimes it was just you driving over a nail. So, hang in there...there will be a new flight in the morning.

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Peter 4:19

WEDNESDAY, August 5, 2009:

Quotations that matter:

- ❑ *“Part of the discipline of getting up early is to exercise equal discipline in the time we go to bed.”* \_Derek Prime & Alistair Begg, On Being a Pastor: Understanding Our Calling and Work

Most of you know that I am a “morning person.” But there is no special merit in heaven for getting up early. Some people are more productive at night, others in the morning. The point is this: we are all wired differently.

But the reason I have highlighted today's quotation is that it is a reminder to see your day (and your life) as a whole. In other words, what you do today has an effect on what you will be able to do tomorrow. You can't burn the candle at both ends and expect to be productive long-term. Life is not a sprint, it is a long-distance run.

Perhaps you are dealing with a “mid-week” slump today. You are battling fatigue, frustration, and burnout. Remember: pace yourself, think long-term, and think “big-picture.” Take care of yourself. God has special plans for your future...be ready for them!

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

THURSDAY: August 6, 2009:

Quotations that matter:

- ❑ *“I'm happier than a tornado in a trailer park.”* \_Tow Mater, in “Cars”

Today's quotation certainly does not qualify for being politically correct, but it does bring a chuckle. I entered this quotation in my file as a reminder to “lighten up.”

I don't mention it to be mean or to get a laugh at someone else's expense, but rather to not take myself and life so seriously.

Like me, you live and work in a high-pressure environment. People are counting on you. There are important things that need your attention and if you miss it, someone or something will suffer. That is not a bad thing; really, it is a credit to your ability and contribution to life.

However, you can get so consumed with your responsibilities that you begin to take yourself and your responsibilities way too seriously.

Hey, lighten up! Take time for a laugh – especially at yourself. Take time to enjoy yourself – especially with those you love.

**Bottom line, enjoy your life; take time for fun.**

Jesus is our example. Never was there a man who had more responsibility and more people depending on him. But the Bible doesn't show a man weighed down with the cares of the world. We see a man who enjoyed life and left a legacy of abundant life for all of us. May that be our legacy also.

**SCRIPTURE:** John 10:10