

**FRIDAY, February 19, 2010:**

Day 31/40      78% completed!

It is important to remember that ultimately, giving your B-E-S-T boils down to taking action. There are several options when it comes to taking action.

- Sometimes it is wise to do nothing. What I am talking about is not laziness or lack of caring. I refer to it as "informed passivity." Sometimes you have to let things get worse before they can get better. Doing nothing is the wise thing.
- However, when action is required, do the difficult first. Isn't it easy to put off the difficult? Most of us do not like confrontation. Getting involved in some things can really get messy; but remember, there comes a time that action is required if we hope to give our best.

Today, let me encourage you to take a moment and reflect on the action that is required of you. Ask God to give you direction and wisdom. He will lead you and give you strength.

**SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 4:2**

*"If you've made a commitment to do something and you encounter difficulty, look for a solution to the problem. Without a commitment, you will look for an escape from the problem, and will generally find what you are looking for." \_Zig Ziglar, You Can Reach the Top, p. 63*

**SATURDAY, February 20, 2010:**

Day 32/40      80% completed!

*1 Samuel 12:23 "Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way."*

Today's verse records a time when the nation of Israel really blew it. They made a horrible choice by seeking to be like the nations around them and appointing a king instead of trusting in God as their leader.

Samuel's response to them is a wonderful example to all of us. What do you do with the difficult people in your life? You keep praying for them and you keep trying to help them.

To be honest, I find myself getting weary of helping people sometimes. Think about it, I've been trying to get people to trust God and live their lives His way for over thirty-one years and still there are people that refuse to do so. They listen, nod their heads yes, and then go out and fall into the same old habits as before.

What to do? Love them anyway. Keep praying and keep teaching. Only God can change people's hearts; but our job is to keep the lines of communication open until the day comes that they "get it."

If the truth be known, I bet you're like me, I haven't always listened to God either! Thank God for mercy and for people that didn't give up on you and me! Amen? Amen!!!

**SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 15:8**

*"The dollar bills the customer gets from the teller in four banks are the same. What is different are the tellers." \_Zig Ziglar, You Can Reach the Top, p. 76*



**Pastor Kemp's Weekly Devotional**

*For the week of February 14, 2010*

Daily Reflection Questions:

- Reflection: Of what eternal benefit was my day?
- Reflection: What eternal truth(s) did I observe today?
- Reflection: Did my behavior match my values?
- Reflection: What am I thankful for today?

*What I am thankful for this week:*

MONDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

TUESDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

WEDNESDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

THURSDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

FRIDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

SATURDAY: \_\_\_\_\_



**MONDAY, February 15, 2010:**

Day 27/40

Judges 6:11-14 *"...if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? ... Then the Lord turned to him and said, 'Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel..."*

Today's Bible lesson takes a chapter from the life of a man named Gideon. He was in a bad way. Life was hard, dangerous and unfulfilling for him. He did the natural thing - he complained.

That is always the temptation when tough times come. We want to look up at God and ask, "Why?!"

However, God seldom explains why; instead He looks down from Heaven where He has the big picture view and responds to our "Why?" question by saying "Go!"

That pretty much sums up our two choices today. We can complain or we can go with what we know.

I probably have no idea what you are facing today. You may be facing one of the most difficult days or times of your life. But like you, I've had my "it's real bad" days. One thing I've learned, if I will do what I know to do and leave the rest to God; without exception...things have worked out.

My dear friend, try it! Trust God, do your B-E-S-T and leave the rest to Him.

**SCRIPTURE: Acts 27:27-32**

*"Go as far as you can see, and when you get there, you will always be able to see farther." \_Zig Ziglar, You Can Reach the Top, p. 186*

**TUESDAY, February 16, 2010:**

Day 28/40

I Corinthians 12:3 *"...no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit."*

God has endowed us as human beings to have the power to do certain things. But for us to do the really important things – things that have to do with our true purpose in life – the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives is required.

Just like a light bulb, it simply will not work unless it is connected to electricity; that was the way it was designed.

So how do you ensure that you have the power of the Holy Spirit in your life?

Think in terms of your car. If you want your car to stay road worthy you don't worry about whether or not the glove compartment is neat and clean. Your focus won't be on the wax job or whether there is trash under the seat. All of these things matter; but they will not ensure that you make it to your destination each day. If you hope to keep your car road worthy you focus on the fuel tank. Without fuel in the tank all the other issues are immaterial.

The same is true for you. The temptation is to get caught up in the details of daily life and neglect keeping your relationship with God fresh and full.

That is what our 40-days is about; getting God back in His proper place in our lives.

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:10**

*"Wouldn't it be wonderful if our mind growled like our stomach does when it is hungry?" \_Zig Ziglar, You Can Reach the Top, p. 190*

**WEDNESDAY, February 17, 2010:**

Day 29/40

Proverbs 14:17 *"A quick-tempered man acts foolishly."*

(Ash Wednesday)

Today's Proverb is a clear example of "stating the obvious." However, don't miss the obvious reason the writer of this proverb entered it – it is not always obvious! Of course it is obvious when you see it happen in other people's lives; but when it happens to you, you seldom see it coming.

Before you know it, you've lost your temper, and said and done things that you regret. Only then is it obvious and you remember, "a quick-tempered person acts foolishly."

The reason this happens is that we allow ourselves to become emotionally and spiritually flabby. Just as it shows when someone does not eat healthily and exercise, it also shows up when someone does not eat healthily and exercise spiritually and emotionally.

That is why I recommend quoting affirmations everyday. They are a spiritual and emotional workout. They help you guard your heart, make wise decisions, think before you speak and give your B-E-S-T.

**SCRIPTURE: I Timothy 4:7**

*"The longer I live the more I become convinced that our major battle in life is not with age but with maturity." \_Charles R. Swindoll, Laugh Again, p. 211*

**THURSDAY, February 18, 2010:**

Day 30/40 75% completed!

Exodus 31:3 *And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship.*

I think it highly significant that the first recorded instance of someone being filled with the Holy Spirit was not a patriarch, a lawgiver, a prophet, or a judge, but a craftsman...Bezalel, foreman of the tabernacle project.

In our day, the temptation is to think of those who are filled with the Spirit of God as preachers or "super saints" who are doing "God's work."

But wait a minute, you belong to God; your work matters; why would you think that God is not interested in you and what you have to do?

I am writing this devotional to you today to remind you that you do not have to operate in your own power alone. God stands ready to help you with your tasks, challenges and problems. Ask him and ask him often. Don't regulate prayer to something you only do once or twice a day; have a running dialogue with God. You'll be surprised what you and God can get done today!  
**SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 41:10 (!)**

*"How old would you be if you didn't know how old you were?" \_Charles R. Swindoll, Laugh Again, p. 225*