

FRIDAY, January 29, 2010:

Day 10/40 (25% through!)

Proverbs 2:17 *“Who forsakes the companion of her youth, and forgets the covenant of her God.”*

Notice the little word “and”. It connects the two parts of this sentence. What it teaches is that “forgetting God” eventually leads to forsaking that which is important in our lives.

One of the things that I could probably predict about you (I know that it is true for me), is that you have a tendency to drift. A fervent prayer and devotional life can slowly turn into a quick hit-and-miss event. A passionate love affair with your spouse can drift into a comfortable but dull routine. The thrill of having a job and meaningful labor can slowly drift into “just another day at the office.” You get the point.

The purpose of our annual 40-days is to shock the system; to bring us back to that which is truly important and to rekindle the flame of passion and purpose in our lives.

My dear friend, don’t grow weary in well-doing; it will be worth every sacrifice you are going through.

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 44:22

“WHEN WE HAVE THE ANOINTING WE HAVE THE ANOINTING.” F. C. MARSH, EMBLEMS OF THE HOLY

SATURDAY, January 30, 2010:

Day 11/40

Psalm 63:1 *O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.*

When you’ve lived with someone as long as I have with Sonja, you know if they are the real deal or not.

Being a grandparent has given me another glimpse in my wife’s “real dealness” (I don’t think “dealness” is a real word! But you get the point.)

Sonja is a night person and would rather sleep in a little later in the morning. I’m just the opposite – going to bed early and rising early.

However, I’ve noticed that when Sonja started keeping our grandson, she started setting her alarm clock, getting up early in the morning and started going to bed early with me. Why? Because she wants to have time for her morning devotions and study time. My esteem and respect for her has gone up another notch. She is showing me once again that she is the “real deal.” She is showing me what she is really thirsty for.

Words are cheap; but if you really want to know if people are the real deal – watch what the non-negotiables are in their life. It will tell you what they’re really thirsty for.

Remember, 40-days is like keeping a grandchild; it will force you to make adjustments for what really matters in your life.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 14:22-23

“MAKE EVERY DECISION A SPIRITUAL DECISION” JOHN WILSON



Pastor Kemp’s Weekly Devotional

For the week of January 25-30, 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, January 25, 2010:

Day 6/40

Exodus 39:43 "And Moses blessed them."

Remember our old buddies, Bezalel and Aholiab? (Could these be girl's names as well?) They're the fellows we learned about last week that gave their best in helping Moses build the tabernacle.

Today, I want to point out an important reality of life that Moses understood : *A paycheck will never be enough for people.*

If someone is a slacker, you can't pay enough to get him or her to give their best. The same is true for a winner. If you hope to get their best, it will never be because of more money. Now don't get me wrong, money is nice. Matter of fact, it takes money to live; but money never satisfies.

What people really need is your B-E-S-T (blessing, encouragement, service, and touch.)

Paper is never enough. That piece of paper may be a paycheck, an allowance, a marriage license, or a birth certificate; but people need more.

Let's start the week off with a renewed commitment to give our B-E-S-T to the people God brings into our lives (beginning with our family).

And let me remind you of one more thing: You reap what you sow. Right now, you may be caught in a situation where you seldom receive someone's b-e-s-t. That's OK, keep being a blessing; your blessings will come...that's a promise (from God).

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 115:13

A PASTOR'S BLESSING: DO YOU REALIZE HOW FEW PEOPLE ARE GRATEFUL ENOUGH TO TAKE THE TIME TO STOP AND SPEND A FEW MINUTES IN PRAYERFUL REFLECTION FOCUSING THEIR HEARTS ON THEIR FATHER GOD? YET THE FACT THAT YOU ARE READING THIS IS AN INDICATION

TUESDAY, January 26, 2010:

Day 7/40

Exodus 40:33 "So Moses finished the work."

Hello everyone! Today I want to remind us of a simple but important truth: ***The goal is to finish.***

We have got a week under our belts with our annual 40-days of prayer and fasting. Maybe the strain and stress of your commitments are already beginning to reveal themselves – hang in there! Finish! Remember Day-40 will come and it will be worth it when you stand among the worshippers knowing that you were one of those that not only started, but also finished what you set out to do.

SCRIPTURE: John 4:34

"SITTING STILL AND WASTING WORDS NO PERSON GREAT THE GOOD LORD SENDS THE FASTING, BUT YOU MUST DIG THE BAIT." ZIGLAR. YOU CAN REACH THE TOP. P. 88

WEDNESDAY, January 27, 2010:

Day 8/40

Proverbs 1:15 "...do not walk in the way with them, keep your foot from their path..."

I chose today's verse to remind you that there are just some people you should not hang around with!

Perhaps one of the most productive fasts that you could conduct during this 40-days season is to fast some relationships.

What some marriages need is for one or both of the people married to wean themselves off their parents or extended family.

What some careers need is cutting ties with a bad business partner or associate.

What some troubled lives need is a new set of "good" friends.

Remember, progress is never easy; it requires tough intentional choices.

You do not have to cut close ties with bad-for-you family and friends in an unfriendly way; but the Bible clearly teaches that we must be very careful of the people we allow to associate with us.

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 19:15

"NO MAN WAS EVER HOLY BY A HAPPY CHANCE. INFINITE DAMAGE MAY BE DONE BY CARELESSNESS, BUT NO MAN EVER WON LIFE'S BATTLE BY LETTING THINGS GO ON AS THEY PLEASE IS TO LET THEM

THURSDAY, January 28, 2010:

Day 9/40

Psalms 145:2 "Every day I will bless You"

This is a direct quotation from God; either we believe it or not. If we believe it then we must believe that what we are going through right now somehow fits into this promise.

Remember, blessings are about being "shaped" by God. This can be a painful process (Like trying to change the shape of a "pot belly"!©). But in the long run, being shaped by God will be for your good.

So hang in there; take your medicine and stay focused – not on the treatment – but on the victory that is to come!

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 12:13

"IF LIFE HAS A CLEAR DEFINITE AIM AND ESPECIALLY IF ITS AIM IS THE HIGHEST THERE WILL BE DETACHMENT FROM AND ABANDONMENT OF MANY LOWER ONES." ALEXANDER MACLAREN, EXPOSITIONS OF HOLY SCRIPTURE. (ABRAM DEPARTING FROM HARAN TO TRAVEL TO CANAAN)