

MONDAY, July 13, 2009: *"Too many people, when they fail, erect a monument to their failure and spend the rest of their lives paying homage. Not enough of us view failure as a moment – a fleeting experience."* _John C. Maxwell

Psalm 89:46 **How long, O Lord? How long?**

Have you ever asked yourself,

- "How long must I endure this sickness?"
- "How long must I endure this circumstance?"
- "How long must I endure this job?"
- "How long...you feel in the _____"

We've all asked the "how long" question at some time in our life. Perhaps you are going through one of those "how long" times right now. You know, God could answer those questions. He knows. He could answer, "Two more years, three months and five days on the illness." Or, "Six years, five months and one day at exactly 4:23 p.m. for relief on that difficult circumstance."

God could answer any of those types of questions; but He seldom does. Instead, He allows us to live life one moment at a time.

One of my favorite all time quotes is: *"One of the secrets to my many victories was that I learned the importance of five minutes."* _Napoleon

This quote is a reminder that "now" matters. Life and its opportunities have a way of slipping past us – one moment at a time. When we fail to trust God with the future and to live each "now" to the fullest we set ourselves up for regret.

So today my dear friend, don't allow the "how long" issues to rob you of the opportunities that God has embedded in this day for you.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 90

TUESDAY, July 14, 2009: *"...the single most important thing to remember about any enterprise is that results exist only on the outside. The result of a business is a satisfied customer. The result of a hospital is a healed patient. The result of a school is a student who has learned something and puts it to work ten years later. Inside an enterprise, there are only costs."* _Peter F. Drucker, The Essential Drucker

- Daniel 6:7 "except you, O king..."
- Daniel 6:14 "And the king was greatly displeased with himself."

In terms of your average tyrant/emperor, Darius was a fairly decent fellow; but he made what could have been a fatal decision when he allowed his policies to be all about himself.

Thankfully, God intervened and saved Daniel from the lion's den and from Darius' misguided decree.

The point is: Don't allow life to become about you. If "you" is dominating your thoughts, actions and priorities, you are on a slippery slope.

Remember the "Is it W-I-S-E" decision-making template? The S stands for: "Is what I'm about to do self-serving or does it serve the greater good?" That is a great question to ask ourselves daily. It will profit you on every front.

SCRIPTURE: John 3:30

WEDNESDAY, July 15, 2009: *"It is true that you cannot change your past...but you can change your opinion of your past."* _Robert T. Kiyosaki, Retire Young Retire Rich

- Exodus 14:12 **...it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians...**

Israel is in a bind. They have the Red Sea in front of them and the Egyptian army bearing down on them from behind.

Forgotten are all the promises of God. Forgotten is their divine mission and destiny. When the pressure is turned up, their character is revealed. Even though they have been set free from the slavery of their past, they are still in bondage in their mind. They would rather fall back on their sorry past than trust God for a better future.

My dear friend, please don't allow that to be you. There will be many people that tell you that you cannot change, but that is simply not true. God has a future for you. Don't allow the pressure of the moment to cause you to flee back to your old excuses.

Dare to believe in God – trust Him and lean on Him for strength today. Also, at least believe in yourself as much as God does. He was willing to put his life on the line because He believed in you so much.

SCRIPTURE: John 15:19

THURSDAY: July 16, 2009: *"Bitterness is its own prison."* _Max Lucado, He Still Moves Stones

- 2 Corinthians 5:17**
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Lucado's quote is worth reading again: *"Bitterness is its own prison."*

The sad thing about the bitter person is that they are their own prison warden! They hold the key to their cell but will not unlock the prison and walk out. Instead, they chain themselves with the cold, biting chains of resentment, self-pity and bitterness. They choose to see themselves as victims of betrayal and abuse.

But God offers another way! He says that all things can be new! That, my friend, means something! Don't talk yourself out of that promise with all the "yeah, but..." statements.

Matter of fact; stop talking about your past, the hurt, what you were. Today, start talking about where you're going and what you are going to be – not what has happened and what you used to be. In Christ, that's over. This morning the sun rose on a new day – and a new you.

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 12:1-2