

MONDAY, June 8, 2009: *“Anyone who becomes a great person did so because he refused to be a little person. He refused to allow obstacles to defeat him.”* _Norman Vincent Peale, In God We Trust: A Positive Faith for Troubled Times

God wants you to win. Before you do anything this week I want you to know that up front. Further, when I talk about “winning” I am not talking about a contest or ball game but rather the real issues and battles of your life. Jesus said, **“Be of good cheer for I have overcome the world.”** The implication is that through his victory we too can be victorious.

My reason for pointing this out is that I want you to approach this week with the correct expectations. The temptation is to begin the week with a “blue Monday” mindset that sets a downward trend for the rest of the week. Matter of fact, if we are not careful we can develop a “blue life” mindset. If you approach your life expecting the worst, guess what, you will not be disappointed. However, if you approach life expecting to win, guess what, you will not be disappointed.

I am not saying that it will be easy or happen quickly, but I am saying that if you face each day knowing that God is on your side then ultimately, no matter what happens to you or around you, you will win!

Remember: God is the way-maker and he will make a way no matter what you face. So this week, when tough times come, say to yourself, **“I can do this...through Christ who strengthens me.”**

SCRIPTURE: John 16:33, Joshua 10:42; Psalm 35:1-3

TUESDAY, June 9, 2009: *“I have stopped saying to people, ‘Have a good day.’ Good days don’t just happen. Good days are created. I now say, ‘create a good day.’”* _Leonard Sweet, Soul Salsa

Proverbs 22:3 A prudent man foresees evil, and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished.

This proverb teaches us to “think trajectory” and to “think consequences.” It is easy to get so caught up with the day-to-day routine of life that we stop thinking. We allow life to just happen. But I can almost hear Solomon saying – “Watch out! Be aware! There is evil out there!”

He reminds us to live our lives today considering (foreseeing) how our actions will affect our tomorrows; to consider where the decisions we are making today will take us.

So I would ask you today: What is the trajectory of your life right now? Is your life on a wise course or are you setting yourself up for an ambush down the road?

As a reminder: a good “foreseeing” question to ask throughout your day is this: “Is what I’m about to do wise?” Not, is it legal, fun or profitable – but is it wise. That will keep you out of a lot of evil ambushes. May the Lord bless and keep you this day.

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 14:16, 27:12; James 4:13:17

WEDNESDAY, June 10, 2009: *“Encouragement is oxygen for the soul.”* _John Maxwell

RE: Appreciation does it matter?

Recently a quote by one of my favorite authors, Gordon MacDonald really stood out to me. He said, *“Much of the fuel we all run on is simple appreciation.”* This is so true. No one is immune to the simple need for appreciation.

Are you unsure on what to do today? Are you looking for a way to connect with people? Then let me give you the answer: live your day giving heartfelt appreciation. Everywhere you go spread the seeds of appreciation. Trust me, it will make your day a lot better and many other’s as well. Hint: start at home!

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 27:5

THURSDAY: June 11, 2009:

“It is healthy for you to admit, “I am a limited resource.” You have only a certain amount of time, energy, giftedness, resources, and money. You’ve got only so much to give, and when it’s gone, it’s gone.” _H. Dale Burke, Less is More Leadership

RE: Does 5-minutes matter?

I remember reading something that Napoleon said that has stayed with me ever since. When he was asked the secret to his greatness as a general he said, *“One of the secrets to my many victories was that I learned the importance of five minutes.”*

That kind of thinking is so foreign. It is amazing how we can let time just “slip by” day after day and then wake up one morning and realize that we have allowed opportunities to be lost forever. How does this happen? I think one of the major reasons is that we have the tendency to focus on the “mountain tops” of life. What I mean by mountain tops are those things that we see way off in the distance. They are the things we are heading for but have not yet reached.

Mountain tops can be that vacation we are looking forward to while we miss a precious five minutes with those we love today.

Mountain tops can be that dream of retirement we are working so hard toward while we miss those five minutes of enjoying a special sunset with someone we love.

Bottom line, today let’s try living five minutes at a time. Let’s live in the now. Only God knows the future anyway; let Him take care of that and let’s us take care to make now count. Deal? Amen!
SCRIPTURE: Psalm 89:47, Revelations 7:9-17