

FRIDAY, May 28, 2010:

Job 23:8, 10 *“Look, I go forward, but He is not there, and backward, but I cannot perceive Him...but He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.”*

I am writing this particular devotional in JFK airport in New York City. It’s been a wild few days. I have gone backward and forward for sure. First I’ve traveled to Alaska, came home for one day and now I’m heading out to Romania. It’s easy to lose touch with family and faith during times like this.

But I am so thankful that God knows exactly where I am and He is watching over me and over my deeply missed family and church family back home.

The same is true for you also. You may not be traveling from one end of the world to the other / I don’t do this too often either. But it is just as easy some times to get so caught up in the day-to-day process of living that God can seem a million miles away. Don’t fret / He’s there and He will not let you down.

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 31:8

“Our struggle and suffering do not show that there is something wrong with us. Like the death of Jesus, our suffering validates that there is something terribly wrong with this world.” _Brian J. Dodd, *Empowered Church Leadership*, p. 68

SATURDAY, May 29, 2010:

Job 24:13 *“There are those who rebel against the light; they do not know its ways nor abide in its paths.”*

Tommy Lasorda, former manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers, recounts the story about the day his team was scheduled to play on the road against the Cincinnati Reds. In the morning, Lasorda went to mass. As he settled into his pew, the manager of the Reds, Johnny McNamara, happened to come into the same church and sit down in the same pew.

The men eyed one another, but neither spoke.

When mass was over, they had begun to walk out when Lasorda discovered that the other manager had paused to light a candle. He figured that gave the Reds an edge. “When he left, I went down and blew that candle out,” Lasorda said. “All throughout the game, I kept hollering, ‘Hey Mac, it ain’t gonna work. I blew it out.’ We clobbered them that day, 13-2.”

That humorous little story is a reminder that there are people around us all that like to “blow the candle out.” They will snuff out your joy and hope. They thrive on the negative and destructive.

But remember, if you have Jesus Christ you have a light that cannot be blown out. Stay true to your God-given destiny. With Jesus on your side you will not lose your way.

SCRIPTURE: John 8:12

“Two sociologists were walking down a road and come across the badly wounded victim of a mugging. One turned to the other and said: “Whoever did this needs help.”



Pastor Kemp’s Weekly Devotional

For the week of May 23, 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, May 24, 2010:

Job 21:7 *"Why do the wicked live and become old, yes, become mighty in power?"*

Both Job and his "comforters" made two mistakes that we all are prone to make: they both looked at life from their point of view and as a result, made broad sweeping generalizations.

For example, Job's friends made the assumption that all prosperous people were good people because surely God would not bless someone that was bad. On the other hand, Job made the broad sweeping statement that since he, a righteous man, was going through a bad season, it stood to reason that the wicked get off the hook while the good people suffer.

The truth of the matter is - both Job and his friends missed it. The truth is everyone suffers – the righteous and the unrighteous. Bottom line, life happens.

When we play the fatal game of looking at life only from our point of view, we run the risk of making it a "me against them" world and that is not a recipe for peace and friendship.

I think that is why my "B-E-S-T" affirmations work so well in this area. The goal is not being number one or accumulating more than the next guy; it is doing your best. The issue is not what others are doing, but whether or not you are doing your best. If you do this day in and day out, life will work out. We learn this by reading the end of the book of Job.

So my dear reader, be of good cheer. Keep your eye on the goal ahead and worry less about what others around you are doing.

SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 2:15

NOTE: For a copy of my B-E-S-T affirmations email me at fmcog@comporium.net

TUESDAY, May 25, 2010:

Job 22:2 *"Can a man be profitable to God?"*

In chapter 22 Job's friend, Eliphaz asks three questions. Each question addresses an important issue that nags at our peace. In each case Eliphaz assumes that the answer is "No", but he is wrong, the answer is, "Yes!"

For example, he asked, "Can a man or woman be profitable to God?"

The temptation is to feel that you do not matter to God. We think of Him as so awesome and mighty and above us, that it is hard to imagine us being of any profit to God. But if you feel that way you could not be more wrong. God takes you seriously. You do matter to Him. What Jesus did by coming to earth and dying on the cross is one example. The fact that the Holy Spirit is with you every moment of your life is another example.

Bottom line, when God designed his Master plan for the universe – YOU (yes, you), were included. You have a role to play, a contribution to make. Our slogan at the FMCOG that "People Matter" is not just a neat little catch phrase; it is grounded solidly in the heart of God. Yes, my dear friend you truly matter to God.

SCRIPTURE: Philemon 1:10-11

WEDNESDAY, May 26, 2010:

Job 22:3 *"Is it any pleasure to the Almighty that you are righteous?"*

Eliphaz had a second question that we Christ-followers can sometimes wonder about. The second question deals with the issue of whether or not it matters if you try to live right. After all, if we are saved by faith in Jesus alone, what does it matter what we do? How can we do anything that adds value to Jesus' work at Calvary?

This kind of reasoning makes a huge error; it forgets why Jesus did what He did. The reason Jesus did what He did is to restore us to our rightful place in God's divine plan.

As Ephesians 2:10 puts it: *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."*

In other words, you are not "window dressing" for God. You are not some plaything that God saved so you could be His pet. You were created in His image, designed to have dignity and honor. There is a special job description that God prepared before you were even born.

Don't ever let someone put you down as if your decisions and deeds do not matter. Jesus didn't go through all He did on your behalf just to put another feather in his cap. He was counting on you joining him in the great eternal plan that He has for this universe that we call home.

SCRIPTRUE: Ephesians 2:9-10

"Success in Scripture is a matter of living out our lives according to God's expectations and standards in undaunted routine faithfulness."

_Joseph M. Stowell

THURSDAY, May 27, 2010:

Job 22:4 *"Is it because of your fear of Him that He corrects you?"*

Eliphaz asks a final question that troubles us sometimes. Basically he asked, "Why does God correct His children?" You would think that the more we please and obey God the less trouble we would have.

But think about it, which children do parents correct? The answer is obvious, they correct their own. The same is true with God. He corrects his own. The fact that God says, "No" is a sign that God loves you. He's got your best interest at heart and, though He gives you a lot of freedom, in the end, He will not allow you to go so far that you destroy yourself. Before He would allow that, He steps in and puts the brakes on your plans.

That may not give you a lot of joy during the "correcting" but it should give you a lot of peace over the long haul.

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 12:4-11

"Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of Christ Risen."