

**FRIDAY, October 9, 2009:**

One of my favorite authors is a professor by the name of Leonard Sweet. In his book "Soul Salsa" he writes about Billy and Ruth Graham. For much of their marriage they were apart with Dr. Graham traveling around the world preaching the Gospel. Mrs. Graham stayed at home for most of this time and basically raised five children on her own.

There were many lonely nights in which she would go to bed alone. One of the things she said that she did to bring comfort to herself would be to sleep with her husband Billy's tweed jacket. It had his smell and reminded her of him.

But in her own words she did not resent her husband's calling. Instead she said, I'd rather have a little of Bill than a lot of any other man."

But here is the part that brought a chuckle to my lips. Leonard Sweet had a little spin on this. He said, my wife says, "A little of Leonard goes a long way."☺

Do you have people like that in your life? You love them, but you can only take them in small doses. Are you one of those types of people?

One of the best ways to ensure that people want you to be around is to be more interested in them and what they have to say than in being heard. The world will sit at the feet of the man or woman that is truly interested in them.

**SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 27:14**

**SATURDAY, October 10, 2009:**

A sign before a long bridge in Florida reads: "It is against the law to run out of gas on the bridge."

Small comfort that will bring if someone does run out of gas on that bridge! What are they suppose to do? Jump out of their car, kick one of the tires and say, "Car, you can't do that! It's against the law."

Now here's another one...

Jennifer Newton mentioned that one of the mysteries of life that her father questioned is why we say of a man – "He got a hair cut"? He wonders why we don't say instead, "He got his hairs cut." Now that is a question that deserves an answer. I know I've never gone to the barber and got just one hair cut!

Then there's the mystery of why technically a group of geese on the ground is called a gaggle, but a group of geese in the air is called a skein. Why?

I could go on, but you get the picture. There are a lot of mysteries in life; some of them very sad, as I mentioned earlier this week. But on this Saturday, why not take a little medicine to help with the sadness and sorrows of this life...it is called laughter. Please my dear friend, find something wholesome to laugh about today. It will do you good☺

**SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 17:22**



**Pastor Kemp's Weekly Devotional**

*For the week of October 4, 2009*

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?

***Personal Notes:***

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**MONDAY, October 5, 2009:**

I recently added a new quote that really grabbed me. It goes like this: ***“Faith is not believing that God will do what you want Him to do; it is believing that He will do what is right.”***

That is not a definition that I particularly like. I'd much rather God do what I want Him to do, but I know that what is really best is to believe that He will do what is right.

Let me put a real live situation with this. A few days ago, I received a very urgent prayer request from Carol Newman concerning her grandson – Briggs. Little Briggs has had a very tough time from the very first days of his life. As she wrote, again requesting prayer for yet another emergency for this dear child I cried out to God... “Why?!”

Earlier that morning I had held my own grandson in my arms and walked him around outside in our yard; why does God allow one child to be whole and healthy and another child sick almost every moment of his life? I know it is not because He loves the Kemps more than He does the Newmans. I know it is not because David Lee is more deserving than Briggs.

Why the difference? I don't know. This is just one of many things that exceeds me. Life is full of mysteries that I can't comprehend. My desire is to have God “fix it”; at least the way I want Him to. But true faith is trusting God to do what is right even when we don't understand. That's not always easy, but it is always best. So as you start a new week; have faith...the kind of faith that trusts God to do what is right.

**SCRIPTURE: 2 Samuel 22:31**

**TUESDAY, October 6, 2009:**

A couple days ago, I was ministered to by a song titled: Mighty Is the Power of the Cross. One line really stood out to me, and it goes along with yesterday's devotional.

The line that touched me was, “What restores our faith in God?” And of course, the answer is “The Cross.”

There are many things that we will never understand this side of eternity about God and how he operates. But one thing is for sure – the Cross reminds us that He is involved in life with us. He is not a distant, uncaring, and unfeeling God. In Christ, He knows how we feel, how we hurt, and how we dream. And most importantly, He knows how to overcome and He promises to lead us down that same path ourselves.

So my dear friend, be strong, be patient, and be courageous. You're not in this thing along. The Cross reminds us of that. Let that restore your faith.

**SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 4:14-15**

**WEDNESDAY, October 7, 2009:**

The last two devotionals have been, hopefully, devotionals that brought some comfort and encouragement. Well today's devotional is one of the “kick in the pants” kind of devotional. (We do need that from time to time.)

It comes from another recent new addition to my quotation file. It is:

- ☐ *“When we fail, we can dismiss it. We can deny it. We can distort it. Or we can deal with it.”*  
\_Max Lucado

This quotation fights against the philosophy of our age – find someone else to blame your problems on.

Here it is Wednesday already. You're right in the middle of the week. You've had time for a lot of problems and mishaps to pile up. What are you going to do? Complain? Criticize? Make excuses? Why not deal with it. As you start this day, put your game face on. Make a difference where you are with what you have. In the long run, you will be happier for it.

**SCRIPTURE: Revelations 3:21**

**THURSDAY, October 8, 2009:**

I like this little poem by Robert Louis Stevens, famed author of Treasure Island and many other works...

The stars shine over the mountains,  
the stars shine over the sea.  
The stars look up to the mighty God,  
the stars look down on me;  
The stars shall last for a million years,  
a million years and a day.  
But God and I will live and love  
when the stars have passed away.

One of the reasons I like this poem is that it is a reminder to keep your perspective. In the midst of a tough season it is easy to feel like life is going to be like that forever. But, remember “this too shall pass.”

Yes my dear one, the storm will pass, the sun will rise and the clouds will blow away. Be of good courage!

**SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:21**

