

Weekly Morning Meditations

The Struggles of Spiritual Growth

Monday

STRUGGLE #1: SIGNING ON

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, **Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?** Then said I, Here am I; send me. Isaiah 6:8

spiritual growth is the recognition
that growth requires involvement

ISAIAH'S SPIRITUALITY before CHAPTER 6

- all TALK but no WALK
- all ANSWERS but no EVIDENCE
- all INSIGHT but no APPLICATION

THE ESSENTIALS FOR 'SIGNING ON' (Isaiah 6:1-8)

1. UZZIAH must DIE
 - a. his REIGN must DIE
 - b. his REVERENCE must DIE
 - c. his REPUTATION must DIE
2. JEHOVAH must be SEEN
 - a. His HIGHNESS must be SEEN
 - b. His HOLINESS must be SEEN
 - c. His HOST must be SEEN
3. 'ISAIAH' must be WILLING
 - a. willing to CONFESS
 - b. willing to be CLEANSED
 - c. willing to COMMIT

ISAIAH'S 'CALLING' (Isaiah 6:9-13)

1. (WHO.....) to the PEOPLE
2. (WHAT.....) preach TRUTH
3. (WHY.....) because of their CURRENT STATE
4. (HOW LONG.....) until COMPLETE DESTRUCTION
5. (WHEN.....) immediately

If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding **ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?** James 2:15-16

Wednesday

STRUGGLE #2 HANGING ON

But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up (HEB - sustained, obtained) his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and **his hands were steady** until the going down of the sun. Exodus 17:12

spiritual growth is the recognition and acceptance
that you can't do it by yourself

THE KEYS TO 'HANGING ON'

1. your FAITHFULNESS (Hebrews 3:1-2)
2. the 'STONE' (Isaiah 28:16)
3. the HELP of OTHERS (e.g. Aaron/Hur)

'HELP' IS ON THE WAY.....

1. DEBORAH had a BARAK (Judges 4)
2. DAVID had a JONATHAN (1Sam 18:1-4)
3. ESTHER had a MORDECAI (Est 2:20-23)
4. NEHEMIAH had a QUEEN (Neh 2:6)
5. ELIJAH had a WIDOW (1Kings 17:1-9)

SUPPORTING VERSES

And Moses' father in law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good. [18] Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; **thou art not able to perform it thyself alone.** Exodus 18:17-18

Where no counsel is, the people fall: but **in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.** Proverbs 11:14, 15:22. 24:6

For the body is not one member, but many.... But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. **And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.** 1 Cor. 12:14, 19-21

Friday

STRUGGLE #3: KEEPING ON

But he (Elijah) himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, **It is enough;** now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers. 1 Kings 19:4

spiritual growth is the ability to continue long after
your 'fifteen minutes of fame' is up

ELIJAH's GREAT 'LET DOWN'

1. the moment of CALLING (Isa 17:1)
2. the years of PREPARATION (Isa 17:2-18:1)
3. the moment of TRUTH (Isa 18:30-38)
4. the triumph of VICTORY (Isa 18:39-46)
5. the MORNING AFTER (Isa 19:1-4)

'NOW WHAT'?

-the GAME/RACE/WAR is OVER
-your TASK is COMPLETED
-the JOURNEY has ENDED
-the MUSIC stops PLAYING
-the PEOPLE have GONE

THE HUMAN RESPONSE TO 'NOW WHAT'

1. continually relive the EVENT
2. struggle to recapture the GLORY
3. sink into deep DEPRESSION
4. fill the emptiness with DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOR

A LESSON FROM THE CHURCH of SARDIS

"I know all the things you do, and that **you have <or had> a reputation for being alive—but you are dead.** Now <1> **wake up!** <2> **Strengthen what little remains,** for even what is left is at the point of death. Your deeds are far from right in the sight of God. <3> **Go back to what you heard and believed at first;** <4> **hold to it firmly and** <5> **turn to me again.** Unless you do, I will come upon you suddenly, as unexpected as a thief. Rev. 3:1-3 [NLT]