

MONDAY, July 27, 2009: *“The trouble with miracles is not, after all, that they happen rarely; it is that one cannot rely on them.”* _Peter F. Drucker, The Essential Drucker, p. 246

Psalm 56:8 **Put my tears into Your bottle; are they not in Your book?**

There is no one more sold on being “intentional” than me. And one of my favorite sayings is, *“The devil is in the details.”*

However, at a recent staff meeting as we were reviewing different projects and plans, there were several things that “just worked out for us.” I wish I could have taken credit for their success. I wish it had been because of my careful and intentional planning. But truth was, it was God.

Finally, I threw my hands up in the air in praise and said, “the secret to our success is God’s mercy!” In other words, it was not the devil that was in the details – God was! I’m going to change that statement forever – “God is in the details.” He is so detailed that he bottles our tears, keeps a count of the number of hairs on our head and knows when a sparrow falls to the ground.

I bet you’re like me today. As you face a brand new week you probably feel like you have a thousand details to take care of. Remember - though your effort is required, at the end of the day, your hope of success doesn’t rest in your ability or efforts; it rests in God’s loving care to the details of your life. So don’t sweat it, God’s in the details.

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 2:7

TUESDAY, July 28, 2009: *“I don’t know all the keys to success, but one key to failure is to try to please everyone.”* _Rick Warren, The Purpose Driven Life, page 29

Proverbs 10:6 (check this!) The righteousness of **the upright** will deliver them, but **the unfaithful** will be caught by their lust.

Keep short accounts with God! Always remember that the wages of sin is death – no exception. When we sin something dies – we may lose an opportunity that will never occur again, we may diminish ourselves in front of people, a relationship may suffer and the list could go on. The point is, the longer we allow sin to go unconfessed and unatoned for the greater the damage.

The temptation is to try to cover our sins but ultimately “our sins will find us out.” In other words, we will be caught by our lust.

Recently I had lunch with an old friend. His life is in shambles. Years ago, he had a bright future ahead of him. But little by little he allowed little things to compromise his integrity and one day he reached a tipping point in which he started a downward spiral that has left him penniless, alone, directionless, depressed, and full of regrets. It was such a sad lunch.

If only my friend had kept short accounts with God. What about you? Are you allowing “little things” to go unchecked and unconfessed? Please my dear friend. Awake! Take action! Make things right with God and those around you.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 1:17

WEDNESDAY, July 29, 2009: *“I was eight years into my career before I realized that my real value to our organization lay within the context of my giftedness, not the number of hours I worked.”* _Andy Stanley

Proverbs 18:16 *A man’s gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men.*

What is your gift? In the Bible there was a man named Joseph whose gift was interpreting dreams. As a result, he ended up before the greatest man of his day, the Pharaoh (king) of Egypt.

The odd thing was that as long as he used his gift for his own satisfaction he suffered. Matter of fact, his own brothers turned against him. However, as he matured and learned that God gives us gifts to serve, doors began to open for him – literally! (He was in prison when things began turning around.)

The lesson I want to leave with you today is twofold. First, don’t forget your “gift.” God has endowed you with a special ability(s) that puts you head and shoulders above others. God did this, not so you could flaunt your giftedness or use your giftedness for your own personal satisfaction, but so you could serve others.

But here is the other extremely important lesson! Right now, you may feel like you are on the street to “no where.” Your job is unfulfilling, your relationships are dull, predictable and the satisfaction level for your life is hovering around zero. But don’t forget your gift. There is a way to use your gift in every area of your life. And when you do, it will bring you before great men.
Genesis 40:1 – 41:1-14

THURSDAY: July 30, 2009: *“I don’t know all the keys to success, but one key to failure is to try to please everyone.”* _Rick Warren

Are you fighting someone else’s battle?

Recently I found myself involved in a debate about an issue that was not that important for me. Yet suddenly I was caught in the crossfire between two people who had a different point of view about a matter. I remember thinking, “why did I get myself involved in this?!”

I was reminded of a couple of important lessons that it might be good for you to remember as well.

First, people will let you fight their battles for them if you let them.

Second: Don’t get involved in battles that you’re not willing to die for.

Sometimes it’s just better to “play dumb” and carry on with what really does matter to you. Things are never going to be perfect. Let it go, don’t waste the precious time, strength and resources you have on things that do not really matter.

SCRIPTURE: 2 Chronicles 20:15