

MONDAY, May 11, 2009: *“When we say, ‘I believe in the resurrection of the body, the life everlasting, and the communion of saints,’ we are affirming the belief that at the end of the road another road begins.”* _David James Randolph, [The Power that Heals](#)

RE: Psalm 68:24-27

At first glance, today’s recommended bible verse may not be that inspiring. It describes the people coming into the presence of God. As expected, there is pomp and pageantry with music and singing, dignitaries and such.

However, there were two groups of people that stood out to me. The first were the maidens playing timbrels and the second, “little Benjamin” leading the procession.

Can you see the picture? Among all the great musicians and singers there was a place for young girls who could do nothing but play timbrels (a small hand drum or tambourine). And then who do you guess is leading the procession? Up in front of all the great princes is “little Benjamin” (the tribe of Benjamin was the smallest and weakest of the tribes of Israel).

As we start a new week, here is the thought that I’d like to leave with you: **God has a place for you.** You may feel like you are the least significant person in the entire world. Your station in life may be “little” but do not let others set your value. Your value has been set by your Creator God, and He has determined that you have a place right among the famous and mighty. This week put your best step forward. Do what you can do – if it’s nothing more than beating on a tambourine. Live your life with excellence and dignity. You are in God’s procession and He has a plan, purpose and place for you – right up front!
SCRIPTURE: Judges 6:11-16, Isaiah 43:1; 44:21-22

TUESDAY, May 12, 2009: (Advice that Bud’s father gave to him before each race) *“Let the rough edge drag and forget everything you’ve learned about racing. You’ll never win a race driving safe.”* _Thomas “Bud” Harris

RE: Exodus 35:20-29

When reading today’s Scripture lesson I’d like for you to notice the number of times that it is mentioned that the people acted because *“their hearts were stirred”* and because *“their hearts were willing.”*

There is a place in all of our lives for doing things because it’s simply right or because of duty, but the spice of life is doing things because we are “stirred” (passion). The sad truth is that the daily responsibilities of life can dampen our passion. Life can become a drizzle of days in which we settle into the rut of the routine. But that is not how our lives were designed to be. God paints the sunrises and sunsets to stir our hearts. He lifts up the majestic mountains and stretches out the heavens, and tosses out the thundering surf all to move our hearts to wonder and worship. God is reaching out in all of life – from the touch of a lover to the touch of a loved child – to stir passion in our lives.

Maybe I’ve waxed a little poetic this morning, but I don’t want you to settle for the drumbeat of drudgery and neither does God. Today, do something (anything!) because your heart is stirred. Today, move beyond just duty and follow your heart; that is where you will find purpose and meaning in your life.

My prayer for you is that you will be sensitive to the Holy Spirit today as he moves upon your heart to draw you to those special “God-appointments” that will bring joy and fulfillment even in the darkest corner and even in the most trying of circumstances.

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 3:24, Psalm 8, Matthew 2:10

WEDNESDAY, May 13, 2009: *“The world is moving so fast that there are days when the person who says it can’t be done is interrupted by the person who is doing it.”*

Genesis 2:15 says, “Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.”

I want to remind us today that even in paradise Adam had to “tend and keep the garden.” In other words, even when we are in the center of God’s will and living in the fullness of his blessing and favor, we must still act. We must still do our part. How much more so when our life is anything but paradise!

I want to remind you today that action is required of you. Yes, God is at work in your life but the question is, “Are you at work in your life?” Don’t allow the pressures and fast pace of life to numb you to the fact that you must take positive steps of action to activate God’s purpose in your life.

In other words, do not confuse **not** doing the wrong thing with doing the right thing. Take action – return evil with good, practice patience and speak life instead of death. Tend the garden of your life and see what fruit God brings forth!

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 31:6, Joshua 1:7, 2 Samuel 10:12, 1 Corinthians 16:13, Ephesians 6:10

THURSDAY: May 14, 2009: *“Life-giving leaders are all too aware they have a lot of good ideas not worth doing. They seek God’s direction with deep conviction that God’s ways are higher than ours, and that God’s thoughts are more elevated than our plans and schemes.”* _Brian J. Dodd, [Empowered Church Leadership](#)

RE: Proverbs 12:5

This proverb disturbed me! I must confess that not all my thoughts are “right.” But remember obtaining the wisdom of God is like digging for hidden treasure (Proverbs 2:4) so as I dug deeper into this proverb I saw the words “thoughts” and “counsels.” What Solomon is talking about in today’s proverb is our thought-life – what we dwell on; our approach to life; our philosophy of life.

We all have thoughts that come to mind that are not “right”, that is a part of being human. But it is when we embrace those thoughts and make them ours that we become deceived. Here is the sad tragedy, a person can be a religious person and still think like the world. We can read the Bible, sing the songs, listen to the sermons, attend the services and yet still be deceived. How? By embracing the counsel of the wicked.

So the question today is not: “What is your thought; but rather, what are you thinking?” Proverbs 4:23 puts it succinctly: “Above all else, guard your heart (thoughts) for it is the wellspring of life.”

Somehow I feel today that I am writing to someone that is in danger. You have been thinking about a course of action that seems so right but is really deceitful. You’ve been going down a path in your mind that will bring irreparable damage to you and those you love if you act on those thoughts. Wake up! Do not be deceived. Turn to the wisdom of God. Follow his clearly marked path, for it is the way of life. “May God help us all to do this, AMEN.”
SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7:13, 2 Peter 3:1-2