

FRIDAY, September 25: 2009

In 1924, George Leigh Mallory, a British schoolmaster and socialite, determined he would ascend the as-yet unconquered peak of Mount Everest. When a reporter asked why he intended to climb the formidable mountain, he replied: "Because it's there." On June 8, the thirty-eight-year-old father of three young children was last sighted trudging up the mountain with his companion Andrew Irvine. Seventy-five years later, in 1999, an American climbing team discovered Mallory's perfectly preserved body on the slopes of the mountain. Mallory had sacrificed his life in an attempt to accomplish an unnecessary goal.

When I read that, I was reminded that 80% of what you do, anybody can do and that 15% of what you can do, anyone can do if they have the proper training. Only about 5% of what you do, **only you** can do.

For me, I want no one else being a husband to my wife. Only I can be a father to my children. Only I and his other grandfather can be "papa" to David Lee. Only I can exercise for me. Only I can worship for me. I can't delegate my daily devotions to someone else. I can't delegate my privileged responsibilities of being a honorable child to my parents to someone else. Only I can stand before God for myself on judgment day.

You get the picture. What is on your "5% list"? In the mad dash to take care of the other 95% of life, please don't forget to take care of what really, really...really matters.

SCRIPTURE: Romans 14:12

SATURDAY, September 26, 2009:

A few days ago, I ran into an old friend. I asked him if he was still journaling. He shared that not as regularly as he had once. He shared that he journaled when something big or important happened. Being an old friend, I took the liberty of getting on my soapbox a bit and reminding him that it is not the big things that matter that much. The real victories of life and the real lessons of life are learned in the midst of the daily routines. It is in the little things that our character is move, formed and revealed. It is in the daily process of living that we will most often encounter God.

Those mountaintop and valley experiences have the place. They are memorable and they stand out; but our ability to handle them is dependent upon how well we handle the "regular" days of our life.

I mentioned to him about our website (www.fmcog.com) and how he could go on line and bring up the daily devotional. I told him to look for the "Daily Reflection Questions" and use them for his journaling template.

I do the same for you. PLEASE journal! Please take the time to exercise your soul each day by writing down your reflections. It will be good for your soul and it will leave footprints for people you love for generations to come.

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 34:27



Pastor Kemp's Weekly Devotional

For the week of September 20, 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:



MONDAY, September 21, 2009:

As you begin a new week let me remind you that something is going on. The weeks can roll around so quickly and life can blur into just one continuous stream of routine. If we are not careful, one Monday can pretty much look like last Monday and the one before that and the one before and on and on.

But I want to remind you that God is at work in your life. He is mindful of you today. He cares for you today. He has a plan for your life. There are "God-moments" scheduled for you this week. There is God ordained crossroads awaiting you this week that will require decisions from you that will set the direction of your life for years to come. They may seem like small decisions but they are really seeds that will grow into huge trees that will bare fruit for generations to come.

There are tests scheduled for you that have been designed to build character in you and prepare you for greater things ahead.

Bottom line, whatever you do, don't underestimate the importance of yet another Monday and yet another week. Just because there's nothing "big" happening this week doesn't mean that there is not something major going on. Matter of fact, you're in the major leagues! You are a part of God's divine destiny for the human race. You're on the team, you have a part to play, and it matters.

Yes, you just thought this was "just another Monday." So, best of luck this week, may God's blessings and favor be with you...and whatever you do...swing for the fences! God's cheering you on all the way.

SCRIPTURE: I Samuel 26:25

TUESDAY, September 22, 2009:

RE: A tribute to "Mama Durham"

One week ago today my wife's last surviving grandparent went home to be with Jesus. Yes, I know that it would be simpler to just say, "She died." But it is not as simple as that; for in that moment that her spirit slipped free from her cancer riddled body there was so much more than mere death. There was a grand reunion of husband, family and friends. It was a time that her faith became sight as she beheld Jesus for the first time! It was a time that she heard those precious words, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter now into the joys of the Lord!" It was all this and so much more.

So today, one week later I ask your indulgence as I give tribute to a very special lady – Dorthula, "Mama Durham." She was an amazing woman. Born in 1920, she experienced the changing of the world without losing her eternal values and good humor. Married at twelve (!) and staying joyfully married to that same man for 70 years, a mother at age thirteen (my mother in law) and going on to give birth to a total of seven children; a grandmother and a great and great, great grandmother. The last surviving charter member of the Gap Hill Church of God; a hard working, honest, humble and happy woman who showed us the love of God and the way Home.

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 31:10-31

WEDNESDAY, September 23, 2009:

One of my favorite quotations is: "*They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel.*"

In this fast-paced, rude, quick-tempered, me-first world in which we live – let's be different! The cost for being kind, gracious, and gentle will be worth in it the long run. The gradual accumulation of dividends that come from sowing seeds of kindness over a long period of time will come back to you one day with a deep satisfaction of knowing that you made life easier, brighter and a little more bearable for people.

Remember, being right is seldom the issue. Being heard, feared or first seldom matters in the long run. But being "Christ-like"...now, that's another story.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:31-32

³¹Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

³²And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

THURSDAY, September 24, 2009:

If you were my son or daughter and I had the privilege of writing something to you before you headed off to start your day, more than anything that I could write to you I would want to write and tell you that I love you.

I'd want to tell you that I love you, not because you're famous, talented or successful, but because you're mine. My son! My daughter! Even writing that makes my heart swell with pride. I would remind you of the thrill of holding you in my arms as a baby and of the joy of watching you grow.

Oh there have been tough times, sad times and disappointing time; but I'd remind you that I have never stopped loving you, believing in you, and pulling for you. I'd remind you that because of my love for you that I am always looking out for your best interest and there is nothing that I wouldn't do to help you.

Yes, if you were my son or daughter and I could only tell you one thing today it would be that I love you...with an unexplainable, everlasting, passionate, tenacious love. Why, I'd even die for you – I love you that much.

However, unless you happen to be Lee or Briana, you're not my son or daughter. But (catch this!) you are our heavenly Father's son or daughter and He loves you this much and more!

You think about that as you prepare for a new day.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 2:4