

My Thoughts For Sunday, May 18, 2014

"Stick-to-itiveness"

BY Definition:

Unwavering pertinacity; perseverance. *Example:* “*You've got to have reasonable goals and the stick-to-itiveness to get there*” (J. Robert Buchanan).

“...Be satisfied with what you have, for He Himself has said,
I will never leave you or forsake you.”

Hebrews 13:5 (HCSB)

I woke up that morning, just like so many other mornings, with the feeling that this was going to be a great day. I had the comfort in the feeling that God was right there beside me and that everything would be good. As the day wore on I felt so sure I could not fail that I became secure in my own abilities. That's when I felt (rather than heard) this voice telling me that I had no reason to believe that a Holy God could possibly love me, much less want me to spend eternity with Him. This voice reminded me of the totally sinful life I had led before I was drawn to my Lord.

O yes, I did, and still do, remember the sinful lifestyle I enjoyed back in the not so distant past. I suddenly felt that maybe my God was no longer that close beside me. I listened to that voice and remembered my guilt. Suddenly I had doubts again. I momentarily forgot what I had thought I'd learned so well about the saving grace of my Savior's sacrifice. I had slipped into that old "me" attitude. The day had been so good that I felt invincible; not realizing it was my God beside me who was invincible. He had been directing my thoughts. Then I got that attitude that I was responsible for this good feeling I'd had.. How often our old sinful nature raises its ugly head, tells us we can go it alone and tries to bring us back to our past.

About this time my Lord seemed to reappear beside me and I knew I needed to get myself back into His saving Word. I found the passage in Hebrews and realized He had not stepped away from my side, I had stepped away from Him. This is just one of the many adversities that appear in our paths, both self inflicted and brought on by our ever-present adversary, the Devil. **1 Peter 5:8-9 (HCSB)** *Be serious! Be alert! Your adversary the Devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour. Resist him and be firm in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are being experienced by your fellow believers throughout the world.*

This is such a profound view of the problems we all face in this sinful world, with all its diversions. Remember, the Devil is working over-time to draw all believers away from Jesus. He perceives his coming misery and... “Misery loves company.”

I am reminded of an old cartoon clip of Linus and Charlie Brown, when Linus told Charley that he really didn't like adversity and said he would rather walk away from it. He stated "There is no problem too big that you can't walk away from it."

This might be your attitude, or mine, at some time in our lives; but looking back at our verse of the day, we have a better option. Jesus said "*I will never leave you or forsake you.*" We can, with Jesus' help, face all our problems and triumph. We need to have the 'Stick-to-itiveness' to realize, believe and depend on this very simple and all-encompassing statement in view of all the adversity that will continue to come our way.

I finally closed my day, again knowing my Lord was beside me, even when I had turned my back on Him. Remember, my friends, you can all enjoy this same life-saving promise as you face the Devil and his wiles. He IS out to get YOU.