

March 2019 Newsletter

From Heavens Heart...Conclusion: It's Decision Time

Today can be a new beginning for you as you continue on a new life-changing journey with God. It's your choice and it will last for the rest of your life...That's a long time. That's eternity.

I am living proof of what God can and will do beginning the very moment we completely surrender our lives, everything to Him. Nothing, absolutely nothing will remain the same. For me, I found myself feeling desperate and at times, alone, uncertain about many things. I had always been certain about most things. But like David was feeling in Psalm 102. I was desperate. But no matter how hard I prayed, studied, and examined my life...the truth I was seeking remained far away. Or at least I thought it was.

Then it all became so clear. As I look back, the intense struggle, it was all a part of the God's plan...the dying process. Piece by piece, I had to die...surrender all as the song goes. Giving in, giving up, letting go of the things I had placed a high value on. This was very hard for me. I'm sure it's hard for you too.

Does God plan your life for eternity and then turn you loose to work out His intentions? He certainly does not. God's desire is for a relationship where He is always in the middle of our life fighting on our behalf and directing every step we take.

God calls us into a relationship in which He is Lord. If we recognize and follow Him as Lord, He will lead us to do and be things we would never have dreamed of. If we try and manage life on our own, the outcome can be tragic.

God will never give you an assignment He will not enable you to complete. That is what a spiritual gift is: a supernatural empowering to accomplish the assignment God gives you. Don't focus only on your talents, abilities and interest. God can take you anywhere He wants to take you and give you everything you need to succeed. There is a reason He is called God. I Am!

So how do we get from where we are to where God want's us to be? We are to become God centered. Lord, I will do anything You ask of me. I'll go anywhere, no matter the cost or the circumstances. I'm willing to follow You.

I have learned throughout my life to identify spiritual markers. A spiritual marker identifies a time for a decision, or direction when we believe God is guiding us. Over time we can look back and confirm it was God and see how He faithfully directed our life according to His purpose.

When I face a decision about God's direction, sometimes I remember to review my spiritual markers. This helps me see God's perspective for my past and present. Then I look at the options before me, to see which direction is most consistent with what God has been doing in my life. Often one of these opportunities will be right in line with what God has already been doing.

If none of the directions seem consistent, I continue to pray and wait on the Lord's guidance. Waiting is always hard for me but I have learned so much through waiting. Waiting leaves me no option but to pray and study God's word seeking His will for my life.

It is in our weakest moments that God shows us His strength.

Years ago, Andrea was in the hospital. Something was very wrong and the doctors could not figure out what. We waited not knowing just how sick she was. We watched her blood pressure continue to drop and her other vitals getting worse. We both felt helpless and desperate. I prayed for a miracle, to save Andrea's life...the love of my life. She was so young. We had a small child at home. What would I do without her? We were truly at the end of our rope trying desperately to hold on to the only thing left...our faith in God.

Dr. Smith came in the room one evening with excitement in his voice. He said, "We've got it. We've identified the problem and are starting treatments immediately and I expect to see her improving quickly."

Suddenly, there came over us an incredible peace. Peace comes as we realize God is in this and He is still a God who loves us and cares for us. It was during our desperation that God taught us something very important. God is always with us. God is in control.

It is in our weakness that we seek and see God's love, power and strength. I am positive that God directed the doctors to save Andrea's life.

As King David wrote, "From the bottom of a deep pit of hopelessness, God reached down and rescued me. He saved me from death." When we are deep in the pit, feeling alone, we begin to see God's awesome power and feel His presence.

Andrea and I experienced God together. So can you. Perhaps you are at a similar place right now? Take the time to offer Him your life...everything. You'll never look back again. With God, you will see and experience a future filled with excitement and joy and power and hope...even as we fight our next battles in this life...but God will be with you. He brings us through and to a final victory. Amen

With the deepest love for Him and for you,

Pastor Steve