

Newsletter May, 2019

From Heavens Heart

How to Live Your Life! Second times a charm...

1. Simplify My Life Heb. 12:1 I remember some years back serving on a number of boards in Lexington. The Chamber of Commerce, Local Bank Board, Church Boards, Merchants Association, School Board and others. I can honestly say that I was so busy serving on all these boards I dreaded our monthly meetings. It stressed me out. I received a call from Nazareth Children's Home and was asked if I'd consider serving on their board. This one I got excited about. I grew up there while dad served as their director. Andrea and I both loved Nazareth because of what this organization did for neglected and forgotten Children. I said yes without any hesitation. Then the thought of another board! What was I to do? I decided to simplify my life. I resigned from all the other boards but for the church boards. So I freed myself and simplified my life and was able to enjoy the years ahead serving where I believed I could make a difference for a good cause. The cause was for Christ.

2. Don't Get Impatient or in a Hurry! Heb. 12:1b Any time in my life, when I got in a hurry I got ahead of God's plan and I made foolish mistakes that were always costly. Be patient. Walk slow. Take time to pray and to listen for God to speak...through His word, His Spirit, a good Christian friend. Slow down.

3. Spend time focusing on Jesus everyday! Heb. 12:2a Nothing is more valuable than taking time everyday...all day to focus on Jesus. This will prevent us from getting ahead of God's plans for us. While you work. While you play. Allow Christ to be a part of your normal, everyday life. He's like to be. Will you let Him in

4. When Life Gets Hard, Remember the Reward! Heb. 12:2-3

1 Peter 5:10 Rom. 8:17 Rom. 8:28 Life will get very hard at times. I can ask any of you. We all have our story and we will have more stories if we live here long enough. During our difficult moments, remember, your biggest reward is coming when we arrive in heaven. For now, you'll have to settle for God's peace and joy...especially in the middle of troubles.

5. Gather A Team to Run With Me Heb. 10:24-25 When I decided to take up running again, Andrea bought me a membership at the Salisbury YMCA. It was a great decision. I met a group of runners who invited me to run with them. This enabled me to stick with it. From a slow start while getting into shape...then they pushed me to run longer and faster. After about six months my time had improved tremendously as had my endurance. Life is the same. Gather a team to run with you. Together, you'll become strong as you gain endurance. Your church family is here to be your team.

6. Remember God is Cheering for Me at every Stage. When our daughter Jordan was in High School, she decided to join the swim team. Andrea and I went to her first meet. It was so painful to watch as she could barely get up and down the pool. No wind. Little leg and arm strength. Andrea and I just looked at each other wondering how long this would last. It lasted another week and another swim meet as we cheered her on. She stuck with it. Practiced hard. Early morning practices. More meets. We kept cheering her on and encouraging her to stay at it. A few months passed and we noticed her times were improving. Her breathing was getting better. She was losing weight and gaining strength. And she had set her eyes on one day winning. At the time, we didn't think she'd ever win a meet but we kept cheering her on. I don't remember when it finally happened but I remember one day it did. Jordan passed the girl out front right at the finish line and won her first meet. She said she could hear us cheering her on. By the time she was a junior in High School, she had won most of her meets, the conference title and qualified for the state meets in Raleigh. We kept cheering her on. I don't know if she lost another meet and back to the state finals her senior year. She said she could hear us cheering her on. But you have the most important cheerleader of all. You have God Himself cheering for you. Keep running the race and you'll finish well. Phil. 3:12-14

7. Take Every Step with Purpose 1 Cor. 9:25-26 Know why you are doing what you are doing. Everything we do is to bring glory to God. In other words, What ever we do, our purpose for doing it is to please God. Remember what Jesus said. Love God first and always and love others. Remember these two and you will finish well.

8. Realize What I Don't Finish, God Will! Phil. 1:6 1 John. 3:2 Sometimes, I stop and think, is God going to allow me to finish here what He called me here to do? I don't want to disappoint God. I want to finish what He called me to do. Then I read Phil 1:6, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

1 John 3:2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Please take some quiet time this week and read each of the scriptures I've listed above and ask God to speak His truth directly to you, truth about Himself, and truth about who you are and whom God created and purposed you to become.

God loves you and will finish the work He has begun in you until the day Christ Jesus returns. Then, it will be finished.

With the deepest love for you,

Pastor Steve

