

Losin' the Luggage—Easier said...
Spirit Life, Part 8
Slide Notations

Left off “striving for the prize – pressing toward the mark” and leaving the luggage behind to run a good race!

There's nothing on earth; man, event, circumstance, or demon powers that we can allow to keep us from obtaining our goal... Because we will stand alone to give an account of things we did in the body; of what we did with the life and salvation that God gave us! **2Co5.10 R14.12 Mt12.36**

Slipping the Bonds... This one thing I do, I forget the things behind... **Ph3.13ff** No man having put his hand to the plow and looking back is fit; well-placed, useful, for the kingdom of God! **Lk9.62** In the time past we walked according to the course of the world and the lusts of men but now we are quickened w/Christ! **E2.2-5 1P4.3** By a new & living way let us draw near w/a true heart & full assurance **H10.20 ff**

To slip the burdens of the past we must realize; this is not then, we are not the same people, the past cannot hold us back... unless we're hugging it!

By design the past is made to move further and further away... we only get carried away if we're hugging it!

We can be confined by living a personal version of who we are (a per-version) or we can be liberated as we strive for God's vision of who we are in Christ Jesus!

The call to press forward is a call to progression and to not fall into transgression by regression!

Dealing with the past... know we must be free to be fit for kingdom... but how do we really leave the bonds and burden's behind? Practice helps... but there are tools and truths...

Tool: Develop a very long term approach to life's successes and failure!

Truths... Joseph's long term view: “You thought evil against me but God meant it for good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people.” **G50.20 Set to rule!** If Joseph had judged his life in slavery... If Joseph had judged his life at Potiphar's... Joseph teaches us we cannot “conclude” before our time of judgment!

Elijah's short term view: “I have been very jealous for the Lord, but everything has fallen apart. I am the only one left and they seek my life.” **1K19.10 Fired that day!** The whirlwind entry, the Royal Proclamation, the raven express, cupboard and coffin miracles @ Zarephath, the Showdown, the Throwdown, the 850:1 duel, out running the horses, and, the Mountain with God... All wiped out by one old lady/big mouth!

Moses short term view: “Listen, you rebels, must we fetch water for you from this rock? And Moses lifted his hand and smote the rock twice.” **N20.11 Excluded!**

Nehemiah's l.t.v.: “We will rise and build...” Enemies arrive to discourage them. ‘Be not afraid and remember the Lord!’ ‘I am doing a great work and cannot come down.’ Neh4-6 *The rebuilding finished!* Unshaken, unafraid, we stay on track! Connected to God we remain in peace to accomplish the work set before us!

Gilding, blacking out, or throwing out a single “piece” will ruin the picture puzzle of your life!

Tool: Develop a very short term memory!

Truths... “Forgive like you have been forgiven! **E4.32** Remember sins like yours are remembered; “No more!” **H10.17** God watches and hears, and if you will submit, He will avenge you! **R12.19** He will show Himself strong on behalf of those whose hearts are maturing! **2Ch16.9**

You don’t have to worry about people hurting and disappointing you... they will!

You don’t have to be concerned about what people say about you... it won’t be accurate!

You only need to be concerned about staying free from “this moment” that’s waiting to become the past that binds your future!

Tool: Be happy when you are persecuted for your faith, remain calm when you are troubled for your failures and never confuse the two!

Truths... It’s praiseworthy if a man for conscience toward God endures grief. There’s no glory in suffering for your faults. But if you suffer for doing what is right, that’s Christ-like! Rejoice if you are reproached for your faith in Christ... but let none of you suffer as a wrongdoer. And if you suffer as a Christ-follower, don’t be ashamed... just commit yourself to Him and keep doing well! **1P2.19ff, 4.12-19**

If you’re abused because of Christ, count yourself fortunate. It’s the Spirit of God and His glory in you that brought you to the notice of others. If they’re on you because you broke the law or disturbed the peace, that’s a different matter. But if it’s because you’re a Christian, don’t give it a second thought. Be proud of the distinguished status reflected in that name! **1P4.14-16 MSG**

Many are my persecutors and enemies yet I do not decline your testimonies! **Ps119.157**

Let the wicked forsake his way, the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. **Is55.7**

Why would a man murmur when he suffers the penalty for his sins? Let us search and try our ways and turn again to the Lord. Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the heavens. We have transgressed and rebelled and You have not spared us...all our enemies have opened their mouths against us... **Lamentations 3.39**

Far too many are sad, turn and run when confronted for their stand of faith, and get all bowed up when they’re busted!

Tool: wait patiently for the answers to your best and worst experiences!

Truth... the key to future success comes from your conversations with the Spirit of God! **J14/16 A11.12, 13.2, 16.7, 20.22, R8.14, 1C2.10,11**

G6.17 2C11.23ff A28.3ff I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus... having to validate myself among hypocrites, working night/day w/beatings for my pay, imprisoned, near death often, betrayed by my own brothers, abandoned, isolated, snake bitten, hungry, naked and weary w/o one person willing to lift a finger... In it all, I glory in the Cross... untroubled to be like Him... glad to spend and be spent for souls... using my life to further the kingdom of Heaven!