

MCD Just Checking In 5/17/2007 ***If & then... the temptation to distraction***

Psalm 39:12 “Hear my prayer, O Lord... for I am a stranger with You...”

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your mightí Ecc. 9:10
Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts Heb 3:15

If... then

James O. Fraser is not a name known to many. He came to Yunnan Province in 1910 with the China Inland Mission, to reach the Lisu tribal people. I happen to be reading his biography with Val. This AM we were impressed with one of his observations in the midst of his language study, about the importance of discipline and diligence in the daily routines and the ölittle thingsö in life. Let me summarize and paraphraseí

Often we are tempted to look ahead with impatience thinking... “I am only in my studies in the bible just now. If I were in ministry, then I would be accomplishing something of significance.” Or... “I am only just starting out in the language. If I were competent, then I would be accomplishing something worthwhile.” Or... “If I were in an easier place... had a better situation... were older... were younger... were married... were single... were with different people... were in a different place... then I would be accomplishing something of importance.

The words “if” and “then” are not words often prompted by the Spirit. They are, rather, more often found in the devil’s vocabulary. They are often expressions of discontent and distraction. Didn’t God intend for me to be where I am? Didn’t God intend for me to go through this process? Isn’t this as important as anything else I will ever do? Who am I to determine what is “significant” work and what is not? If I am in God’s will today, then today is extremely significant and important to God and therefore must be to me.

Hudson Taylor said..öLittle things are indeed little things. But little things done faithfully are big things.ö
Jim Elliot wrote in a journal entryí öI want to be altogether present wherever I am.ö
Jonathan Edwards resolution #6 öResolved, to live with all my might, while I do live.ö

A couple of years ago I memorized all the öToday, if you will hear His voice,ö passages in Psalms and Hebrews. They continue to challenge me as I realize the importance of ötodayö. We must not lose today by dreaming about tomorrow or mourning over yesterday. It is our prayer that you will make the most of today.

öLord, help me to recognize that today is the only day I have the opportunity to glorify you in. Yesterday is over and tomorrow may not be given to me on this earth. In the ordinariness of this day, help me to be faithful, focused and fervent in whatever comes my way. Help me to see everything today as a stewardship from You and for You. Free me from discontent and from being distracted by wayward thoughts and wasted time.ö

For further study: John 9:4; Ecclesiastes chapters 1,2,3 and 12; Psalm 139; Psalm 90; Matt 4:1-11

Remember, we love you and are praying for you continually. Adios, Ron &Val

PS: Today is day number 19,302 for me. Ever numbered your days?