



Touchstones of the Heart

Slow Down and be Thankful

It seems like an eternity since I have had time to write anything other than school papers. Today is Thanksgiving and I have a little bit of a break, so I thought I would write...actually, I think God wants me to write, since He woke me up this morning reading this article to me that I hadn't even written yet. We really do need to slow down. The picture to the left is a picture of the Blue Ridge Parkway, which I'm sure most of my readers have heard of. All over this country there are special roads that are dedicated to getting the motorist to their destination faster, smoother and with less hassle. Some of these special roads even require the user to pay a fee so that they can travel faster. The Blue Ridge Parkway is a different kind of special road—a road dedicated to slowing down. The motorist who gets on the Parkway doesn't do so to get to a destination faster, they get on the Parkway to slow down and enjoy life. To take in the scenes and derive pleasure from the beauty around them. Occasionally, I have been on the Parkway and had a motorist tailgate me, until I pull over and let them pass. I say a prayer for them, not only for their safety, but also for their soul. Because if they can't slow down when surrounded by beauty

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Ministry Updates

On Saturday, November 17th we held our first Men's Warrior Training Seminar and it went great! God showed up in a wonderful way and met the participants in fresh and exciting ways. This was the beginning of a series of seminar's that we will hold in preparation to a full blown 3-day Advancement in the Spring. Our next Warrior Training Seminar will be held in January. The seminars are being held at High Pastures Christian Retreat Center in Burnsville, North Carolina. The cost is only \$10.00 per person and includes lunch. For those traveling lodging

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Tidbits for Living: The Battle Field For Your Heart



Battle Field For The Heart
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As we went through the Warrior Training Seminar last week I was reminded we are living in an epic story in which a great battle is being waged for our hearts. Hearing the stories of other men and the way the enemy has attacked them and their families are classic examples of the battle. God has set his image in men as warriors who battle for their families, but too often we are taken out by the arrows that were aimed purposefully at our hearts. In one of the battle scenes from the movie Braveheart we saw the archer's come forward and aim their arrows up to the sky with the intention of hitting the soldiers in the opposing army. However, we were reminded by God that the enemy of our souls is less reliant on chance than that. He has aimed his fiery darts precisely so as to wound us in the places of our strength. Many of these wounds were taken in our youth with the purpose of keeping us from becoming the men that God wants us to be. The enemy knows that if we become the men that God designed us to be we will be

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"Winding Road"
Digital Image
Photograph by David R. Shields
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Newsletter Spotlight

I have so much to be thankful for and no matter how difficult life is, I know that I can rest in the knowledge that Jesus came to rescue me. You see, this is not about driving fast or even slowing down on a special road, it is much deeper. It is about beauty and redemption. I was reminded of this just the other day. We are living in a great love story that God is writing.



Touchstones of the Heart

Slow Down and be Thankful (Continued)

then they probably never can slow down. Everything in our world is about “hurry up”. Hurry up to the store so you don’t miss out on a special deal; hurry up and get on the job, so you can make more money, on and on it goes until we miss the whole point of why we were hurrying in the first place. A number of years ago I wrote a simple little poem entitled “Take Time...” How I wish I had taken my own advice way back then:

Is not everything we see a poem lovely as can be?
 A dog, cat, a flying kite, a star twinkling late at night?
 A breeze blowing through your hair, while sitting on a porch chair?
 Watching grass wave in the wind, seeing flowers bow and bend?
 A bug crawling across the ground, a snake slithering without a sound?
 A child laughing at a kitten poking it's head inside a mitten?
 All these things and many more write a song and music score,
 For us to enjoy if we'll take time, to see in them reason and rhyme.

I have so much to be thankful for and no matter how difficult life is, I know that I can rest in the knowledge that Jesus came to rescue me. You see, this is not about driving fast or even slowing down on a special road, it is much deeper. It is about beauty and redemption. I was reminded of this just the other day. We are living in a great love story that God is writing. Not only does he love me, but he loves others and he may use me to display that love. If displaying that love cost me, so be it. It is His desire that everyone is set free. So on this Thanksgiving day, I am thankful. Thankful for my family, for the church and for the beauty that God is sharing with me and the love story He is writing.

Ministry Updates (Continued)

accommodations may be available on site for an additional fee. Other lodging facilities are available and Rescued Heart will make reservations if you let us know in advance. Another update worth mentioning is that I am now a Pastor in a small fellowship called Beacon on the Hill Church. We are a relatively new body of believers who are committed to “being the church” and not just “going to church”. I am working under an Apostle/Teacher who started the work about 2 years ago. John Bennett is a writer also and through the ministry of Beacon on the Hill we will be providing books and teaching materials to the Body of Christ. We already have several books which are available on request: The one we are featuring right now is “Fear”, a small book on how to overcome fear. Fear is the opposite of faith and many believers are operating out of fear and not faith. This book will help them be set free from this powerful tool of the enemy.

Tidbits for Living: The Battle Field For Your Heart (Continued)

dangerous on the side of good. These types of attacks are not exclusive to men however. Women also have been attacked in the places of their strength. Mark my words, the enemy fears you! He fears you, because he knows if you are ever set free and healed you will help free others. If you’ve never watched the movie “The Matrix” I recommend you watch it and consider this concept. The members of the Nebuchadnezzar were on a mission to enter the Matrix and set people free from the enemy who held them captive. The enemies biggest lie was that he was not there and their lives were normal. All along it was a huge deception and they were being held captive and used to feed the enemy. The good news? Jesus came to set you free! Let Him heal the wounds and set your heart free from the captivity of the enemy.

May I give one more small piece of advice? Don't do these things because you “ought to”, but do them because you understand without them you will die on the battle field for your heart!

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