

A Word of Thanks & Encouragement for the Wonderful People of LSC

My prayer for each of you is taken from 2 Corinthians...

“Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”

Don't put it off and don't give up.

Here are seven items of encouragement for you.

1. Always expect the best—always. Don't expect the worst—ever. Expect a miracle. It is your attitude toward life that makes your life what it is. You always get exactly what you expect... good or evil. Expect the good and you will get it—expect the bad, and you will get that also. *Isaiah 57:19 – “I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, says the LORD; and I will heal him.”*
2. By your thoughts, mouth, and prayerful expectancy right now you are deciding what you and your circumstances will be tomorrow. The man at the gate “gave heed to them, expecting to receive something from them.” He expected something and he got it. Expect miracles for your life, and miracles will be your portion, even as a miracle was the portion for the hopeless cripple at the gate. *Acts 3:2 – “And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;”*
3. Be one who says, “God can do things and God will do things – through me.” This is not egotism; it is one hundred percent scriptural. Hebrews 11 tells us of men and women who did things by faith. You too can do things – whatever the Lord wants done through faith. *1 John 5:3-4 – “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.”*

4. The secret of victory is action, and persistence. Don't put it off and don't give up. This violent faith always takes things.

Matt 11:12 – “and from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.”

5. You live NOW, today, never in “tomorrow.” Don't say what you would do if circumstances were in your favor, or if you had the money, or if you had the education, or if you had the opportunities. Wipe out that “if” and go on and conquer. Cease dreaming about the good life you may have next year, or ten years from now. Begin to live at your best now.

Jeremiah 29:11 – “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”

6. Be great for God NOW. Forgive others NOW. Be bold and fearless NOW. Don't postpone positive and constructive living to some vague and indefinite future.

Proverbs 26:16 – “The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly”

Mark 11:25 – “if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

7. Refuse to be dominated by fear.

Job 3:25 – “For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, And what I dreaded has happened to me.

Whatever you continually fear, you will get. Don't blame it on bad luck, bad karma, misfortune, fate or “other people.” You ask for it yourself, by giving place to fear. You are your own biggest enemy, your biggest troublemaker. Sure enough, the thing you fear will come upon you. Listen! Listen! Change all this right now. Affirm it; say this for you and yours today: **“FEAR HAS NO PART IN MY HEART, FOR GOD HAS NOT GIVEN ME THE SPIRIT OF FEAR!”**

2 Tim 1:7 – “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

Sharian and I love each of you with the Love of Christ, be blessed!