

“Fresh Resolve”

January 1, 2017

PSALM 42:1-11

CORE- Everyone here is a LEADER. At all times, at least one person is following you—It’s YOU! The GREATEST PERSON IMPACTING YOU—IS YOU!! We have “RESPONSE—ABILITY”—we are supplied with all we need to respond to HIM. **Powerful things happen when GOD’S PROVISIONS meets OUR DECISIONS.**

HERE ARE SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS WE CAN MAKE:

1. KEEP OUR FAITH

“So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.” (Hebrews 10:35)

NOTE: Equally important as keeping our “love on”—is “**keeping our faith on.**”

- **Believe and receive His ministry to your heart—since it is “with our heart we believe” (Romans 10:10)**
 - As “**the Author & Finisher of our faith**” (Hebrews 12:1-2)—He taught us to believe Him—and He continues to instruct us as our faith increases!
 - Our relationship with Him is “**based on the faith of Jesus**” (Philippians 3:9 TPT). He believes in you & in what He can do in your life!
 - He knows that He is able to “**save to the uttermost (i.e., completely restore) those who come to God by Him,**” because Jesus “**always lives to make intercession for them.**” (Hebrews 7:25). He is always praying for you!!
 - Ask Him to “**increase (your) faith!**” (Luke 17:5), as His disciples prayed. Ask Him to “**help (you to overcome) your unbelief!**” (Mark 9:23-25), as the father of a demonized boy prayed. (*i.e., a man asked Mother Teresa to pray that he would have clarity. She denied his request. Instead, she said, “Ask God to help you trust Him more. For the more you trust—the clearer you’ll see.”*)
- **[NOTE: This one truth has become very liberating for me] WE are IN CHARGE OF our THOUGHTS!**
 - We can “**set our minds**” (Colossians 3:2-4); Lit.- “*to rein in*” or “*to curb.*”
 - We can think on purpose—setting our minds on whatever is “**true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable...**” (Philippians 4:8).
 - As we **STRETCH our faith—we become “strong in faith” (Romans 4:20).** (*i.e., move beyond defensive prayers—hotel room “protection” prayers—to “influencing prayers”—“May all who stay in this room have an encounter with You!”*)

2. CONTROL OUR TONGUE

“With our heart we believe, and with our mouth we confess” (Romans 10:10)

- The most important person you speak to—is YOU!!
 - David “encouraged (strengthened) himself in the Lord” (1 Samuel 30:6).
 - In Psalm 42, he talked himself out of hopelessness.
 - **Steve Backlund**—“My hopelessness about a problem is a bigger problem than the problem.”
- **One of the most powerful use of our words—“to MAGNIFY THE LORD” (Luke 1:46)**
 - **Lit.-“to exceed my capacity to understand; a refusal to limit Him”**
 - **Making God bigger**—knowing you can’t exaggerate Him!
 - **It’s declaring in any situation, regardless of what’s happening, that there is always a solution!** *“He WILL make a way where there seems to be no way!” Isaiah 43:16-19*
- Equally powerful is **HOW WE SPEAK TO OURSELVES (i.e., meditation is way we talk to ourselves—Lit.- “to mutter”)**
 - **Gideon** thought he was who **his past sad he was**—but the angel came to **tell him who he really was.**
 - **Prophetic declarations break the lies of limitation:** *“I’m too old. I’ve failed too many times. I’m not smart enough. I don’t have enough money.”*
 - **From the place of knowing “our sufficiency is from God” (2 Cor. 3:5)—not self-sufficiency—focus on what we’ve done right)not constantly focusing on what we’ve done wrong!)** (i.e., *David reflected on previous victories as he faced Goliath. 1 Sam. 17:36*)

3. QUIET OUR SOUL

“I have calmed and quieted my soul” (Psalm 131:2 ESV)

- Our feelings do not have to dominate our decisions.
 - Our soul has the capacity to feel
 - Yet, our feelings need to be checked, challenged, and even denied.
 - Many of the truths God speaks to us are going to be exactly opposite of our feelings!
- (1 Kings 19) Elijah recalibrated his soul—not in the spectacular events of the wind, earthquake, or fire—but in the “still small voice” of God heard in the quieted place.

“Our sufficiency is from God” (2 Cor. 3:5) to make all of this happen!!