

December 26, 2010

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Monday

Prov. 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart
And do not lean on your own understanding.
Prov. 3:6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He will make your paths straight.

Don't you just love it? God is in control! Your responsibility is merely to trust and obey. Here is a promise straight and true. God will work out the details and plans of your tomorrow in you, through you, and for you, as you trust in Him. You know it is true. You have experienced it already, haven't you? Joseph and Mary were not reading the prophecies and planning their fulfillment, they simply were living everyday under the leadership and lordship of God. The "big picture" of their lives' plan was in His hands. So you too should focus upon simply walking in His will for *this day*. Look for the opportunities of *right now*. He is leading the way.

Tuesday

2Cor. 5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight.

Circumstances of life may seem good or bad. Lost job, new promotion, easy road, hard going; each of these is worked lovingly into God's plan for your life. How Joseph must have despised the government's decree. How it must have pained him to take his pregnant wife and travel to Bethlehem. Now, we see clearly that God was orchestrating the King's voice for the purposes of heaven — and for Joseph and Mary. Just so, one day it will be clear to you how God was working in your every situation. Until that day when you can see it clearly, walk by faith in the truth of God's care and providence.

Wednesday

Matt. 6:34 "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself.
Psa. 37:7 Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him;

Don't Worry, Be Happy was a pop sensation back in the 90s. Though inappropriate for those outside of fellowship with God, the song should be a theme for believers seeking God's will and engaged in following God's plan. Just as God orchestrated the lives of Mary and Joseph, so God is orchestrating your life as well. Worry is unnecessary and unproductive. Oh the joy that is yours when you simply learn to relax and trust that God is in control. It is not up to you to orchestrate your life or God's will. He is capable, competent, and caring enough to do it. So don't worry, be happy, serve God.

Thursday

Rom. 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

One of the large concerns for the sincere believer might be stated like this: "But I messed up and got off the path. Have I destroyed God's will for my life completely?" You misunderstand the power and providence of our great and gracious God. He is able to work all things together. That is "all things" not just some things. Even our failures become His successes. Look at Moses' mistakes or Abraham's mess-ups. Did these keep God from accomplishing His will? No! Continued rebellion will keep you from experiencing God's blessings for a period, but when you turn to God, He will redirect you to His purposes.

Friday

Rom. 8:29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son

So what is God doing in your life? He is focused upon bringing you into the shape and form of Jesus — in your attitude, obedience, and faithfulness. Give attention to how your circumstances are drawing you, shaping you, and growing you. What do your circumstances reveal about needed change in your life? Let Him chisel you into a beautiful sculpture of grace, even if the chisel is painful for the moment.