

Tuesday, September 20, 2005 – Recognize Opposition and Press

I woke up this morning on time (thank God for alarm clocks!)..... I proceeded to get ready to head out on time, only to find out that I was now late!! How could it be? Easy.....I always get tied up in the bathroom.....It seems like I just slow down in the bathroom, like time doesn't matter in there! But time is moving just as quickly in the bathroom as in any other section of the apartment. So, when we leave I am now late....everything is going well, until I get in front of a guy that doesn't seem to have the same level of desire as I do.....and I now am feeling the added pressure of time slipping away from me.....

Some days as we press toward heaven, we seem to have no major issues....you know the family is acting pretty good, job is going along without major complications, health is pretty good, our spiritual walk is moving along smoothly and we are pressing forward in a good mood....our fasting, praying, bible reading, witnessing is all coming together and we're happy in Jesus. And then someone gets in our way.....and the car breaks down, a family member is having issues, the job becomes a trial of its own and we're not feeling so hot that day and we're running late and, and, and....I know you can fill the blanks in.

HOWEVER, did you think about the fact that this is the time is when you STILL have to press toward the mark. That is why the prize/reward of heaven is so wonderful.....it isn't a press if there is no opposition. So what does this have to do with losing time in the bathroom....EVERYTHING.....we can be our own opposition right along with outside opposition. If I'd been more aware of the time, I would have been pressing for the right reason. If we are more aware of the types of opposition and recognize them as just that (things that try and suck up your time, money, effort, praise, etc) those are all things that you have to press through!!!

Have you ever sat in church and sat next to someone who just wants to talk through the service, play with the baby, write notes, clean their purse, count change, hunt for a mint and then take forever to tear the paper off of that 3-month old gritty piece of candy??? That is the time you need to press toward the mark.....indifference, slacking off, busy work, goofing off, etc....all of those things are tools designed to stop you from pressing....recognize them for what they are, put them in place and keep pressing toward your mark. And you have to press while you're in your world....I mean while your still dealing with crying babies, nasty neighbors, unreasonable co-workers, and days when you are frustrated....it's all part of the press....so I press!!!

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 3:14 (KJV)