

Friday, September 30, 2005 --- Applying the Word to the Race

God's race for me is perfect....the race course doesn't appear perfect but in God's eyesight it is because my race is His way for me!.

2 Samuel 22:29 says that He is the lamp and He will lighten the darkness...this lets me know that there will be some darkness in my course, but because it's His way He's responsible for lighting the course (and He will through His word)...Because of Him I am able to run through a troop...the opposition....I don't run around it, or take a detour, He lights my way to run even in what appears to be a dark place...yeah, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death (this means that death is near because you can't have a shadow of something that isn't there.....everything when light shines on it, produces a shadow.....so even in the death (God who is the light shines on it and that is why we can get through the shadow of it....) And what is even more shocking is the fact that the Bible says that the word of the lord is tried....that means that He will allow a situation to come up to test His word....so isn't it possible to experience part of the race where it appears to be impossible to get through it.....God's just letting us see that His word won't fail the test.....this is why we run with patience the race that is set before us....**we get to see the word come alive and actually work.** I'm going to say it again....His course is perfect for your life....

We've got to grow along the route because we're experiencing His word being true.....how else will we know what He is capable of doing unless someone has a situation that looks like His word won't work on it.

Usually every weekend I do laundry (most of the time it's every other weekend though). Generally speaking I don't mind washing...actually when I smell soap suds it just gets me to going....I'll wash everything in sight. However, what complicates things now is that we have a washer but a dryer that is in repair. This means that I take my family's clothes to the Laundromat. Now I don't know about you but lugging 6,8 or 12 loads of wet clothes to the Laundromat to dry is not my idea of a good time. I lose all desire to wash....the thrill is gone! Anyway, part of my washing routine is to check my husband's work pants for those tough stains that just refuse to come out. Well, someone told me about Spray N' Wash and how effective it would be on the stains. I tried the Spray N Wash stick. It worked!! No more stains. What made me love it so much is that I could rub it on the stained fabric on a Monday and according to the label, I can let it sit for up to a week when I am ready to wash. This is wonderful because no matter when I find out about the stain, the time when I see it, I apply the stain remover and it sits.....it's working while I'm doing other things during the week. So by the time Saturday comes, that stain is ready for the wash.....I had to test it out though before I knew it worked. Yes, it was recommended by someone else and yes, I did purchase the item. But the catch was that in order for me to be able to tell you that it works, I had to try it myself....it withstood my test. So the following wash weekend, I pulled out the really tough stained items (the shirts/pants that had been stained for a couple months and I just didn't know what to do with them but refused to throw out the item). I thought, "well, if it worked on such and such, then I'll try it on this impossible stain." I followed the same procedure and sure enough that two month old stain came out!!!

I'm sure you are following where I'm going with this.....so too is God's word, this is why we get to run His Perfect course for us.....He's not afraid for us to try His word on our

stained problems. Sometimes we know His word but we're not convinced that it'll work for us.....then we hear a testimony (the great cloud of witnesses) or experience a situation (you're now enrolled in the great cloud witness corp ...but often we want to be in the witness protection corp....we don't want to have a scarred but delivered life...we want to act like we never had that situation)!! But when we are left with nothing else but His word...we use it.....sad, that we use God's word as the last effort, when He wants us to use His word first! But that's another subject....

Back to the main point.....God's word is strong enough to be tested in any circumstance and God being wise enough organizes our lives so that we will have to use His word in our lives so we can believe His word to do what we need. This is why HE sets our race before us and this is why we need to hear the victories of others (as well as remind ourselves of God's presence and power in our lives.

Be honest, if you could have had warning ahead of the test/trial that almost took your breath away you wouldn't have signed up for it....you would have run in the other direction (and I would have too) BUT God being God knows that we need to have strong faith in Him and the only way you'll get it is running the race that is set before you...and seeing His word in action. (if you haven't had one of those yet, don't worry you will....don't be afraid....all of those little tests that you're experiencing are building spiritual muscle and fortitude to prepare you for the next one....and it's all for His glory and your good.....)

I have a short testimony....years ago as a child, we didn't have a car. We lived in a neighborhood where there was no corner store. The closest store was about a 15 minute walk....up and down hills on roads without many sidewalks. It was a hot summer day and my mother, brother and I wanted some pop (soda for those not from Pittsburgh) and an apple pie and we had no money. My mother decided that she would pray....and so she prayed (out loud) for the Lord to give us pop and an apple pie. My brother and I went on and played forgetting all about the prayer when we heard a knock on the door. It was my uncle (who rarely came over) who had a carton of pop and an apple pie in his hand. We stood in shock as he said the Lord told him to bring this to us. We jumped and shouted as my mother told him of her prayer!

This simple prayer verified in my 10-year old mind that God does hear and answer any prayer!! This is what I mean by God's word being tested. Many years have passed, and I've used His word many times and it's worked better than Spray N' Wash....that's how you run with patience..by applying God's word to the race....

2 Samuel 22: 29 For thou art my lamp, O LORD: and the LORD will lighten my darkness. **30 For by thee I have run through a troop: by my God have I leaped over a wall.** **31** As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him. (KJV)