

Monday, September 26, 2005 – What are You Running With

I pray you had a wonderful weekend...but it's over and it's Monday and the work at my desk has been steadily growing since I arrived (on time). It's been so intense that I've been able to use last week's devotional quite a bit (isn't it incredibly strengthening to apply the scriptures to our daily lives....I mean that is why the Lord put them before us). I've prayed for ongoing understanding and speed in which to accurately accomplish my tasks at hand. There came a point during the morning that I was running but seemed to be running in place....nothing I did appeared to be making my load any lighter.....I started to run through it but I was not patient about the process. I just wanted to get it over with and move on to the next problem. But then this came to mind, run with patience.....interesting combination of words in this hurry up and get things done.....you can't run with patience bogged down with weights.....my weights this morning were deadlines, more work coming, other people waiting on what I was doing to get their jobs done....just the sheer pressure was weighing me down.

I finally prayed and asked the Lord to help me lay all of those weights down (some weights were valid but they still held me back from completing my work in a timely yet accurate fashion). What's the point of running through it and I did it incorrectly? I was creating a weight (it's name...."Do it over") I had to calm myself down and not look at the 20 or so emails that required attention and focus on the task at hand. Once, I did that then running to my goal of accomplishing all of the work, became easier. It didn't decrease my need to run.....my job of slowly but surely wading through my tasks became much easier and I could with patience complete the task at hand....What about in our spiritual walk....yes, there's a lot to accomplish and half of the battle is to *run with patience* (my husband knows this is a real test for me). This means you can run without it too... Don't stop, you've got to run *with patience*.....impatiently running doesn't accomplish your goal....you make mistakes when you are impatient....you don't pace yourself when your impatient, you miss road signs and take unnecessary risks all because you're trying to speed a process along that requires steady methodical movement forward to your desired goal.

So this afternoon I ask you what are you running with....it's all dead weight and none of the weight will get you to your goal any faster. Do you know the name of your weights....fatigue, anxiety, frustration, weariness, haste, co-workers, irritating family members (yes, we do have them at times....), or irritating self (yes, we do experience that at times too...we don't always own up to it), but whether the weight is you, someone or something else....lay it aside and ***run with patience*** and the next question is *what race are you running in?* If you're trying to run a race that God hasn't called you to run, well.....maybe tomorrow's devotion (oh, wait I'm running ahead of myself)!!!

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and **let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Hebrews 12:1 (KJV)**