

EVERYDAY LIFE

Monday, September 29, 2008

"Your faith has healed you. Go in peace." Luke 8:48 NIV

"When opportunity knocks, be sure that it is God at your door!"

My thoughts today are about times **"when opportunity knocks."**

I almost missed the most important opportunity of my life many years ago. I have since learned that a **simple choice at the moment can have long term and lifelong effect**, for your life and others. In a phone call, a kind man I did not know at the time, told me of their church and need for a pastor, then asking if I were interested. I listened politely to his kind invitation, but without considering said, *"Thank you, but I am not interested."* An **opportunity was offered that would shape the rest of our lives**, our children's, and now our grandchildren's lives, and I didn't realize it. **But God is faithful, if you keep a heart to hear and obey Him.** See John 7:17.

No sooner were the words out of mouth, than deep inside I knew they were wrong. That was **my choice, but not God's will**. God's voice in my heart was saying something other than what I had spoken. I quickly apologized to him, and even more quickly and silently repented to God, saying that Gayle and I would prayerfully consider if this were God's will, if they were interested. We came; God spoke. That was Trinity Church in San Antonio where we have lived and served for more than 33 blessed and prosperous years. **When opportunity knocks, be sure that it is God at your door!** See Revelation 3:20.

Probably you can look back at some moment when an opportunity was presented, but not taken. Sometimes you may have missed an opportunity that could well have opened other doors for you; sometimes you spared yourself from wasted time and energy. Opportunity may present itself as a simple invitation, a clear choice between alternatives, or opposing directions. **Life is often shaped, and success defined, by recognizing such life-defining moments - God moments -** and having the discernment and courage to seize them, when they are right for you, and you are ready for them.

There is a need for wisdom when opportunity knocks. **Not every thing that comes your way is an opportunity** that you should embrace. Some will be diversions, distractions that look good at the moment but are inconsistent with your greater goals and commitments. They are tempting, but **God's voice in your heart quietly whispers there is something better**, if you are patient. Put your heart in God's hand and trust Him to guide and direct you. God's promise is, *"You will hear a word behind you saying, 'this is the way, walk in it,' . . . the steps of the Godly are directed by the Lord; He delights in every detail of their lives."* Isaiah 30:21/ Psalm 37:23 NLT.

At all times it is **important to know God's voice above all the others** - other voices of fear, or prejudice, or temptation, or distraction, or just personal preference. When you believe it is God's voice: consider Scripture (God will never contradict His Word), seek Godly counsel, pray honestly, and then walk obediently and circumspectly. *"Be careful how you live . . . as wise people . . . make good use of every opportunity you have . . . find out what the Lord wants you to do."* Ephesians 5:14-18 TEV.

The Bible tells of a woman whose great need and deep desire put her in the place she needed to be - her opportunity to touch Jesus and be rid of what had robbed her of health and resource for so long. She **held fast to hope even when she had found no help** - until that day; the opportunity of a lifetime came her way. Jesus was near. She had hoped for such a day and she recognized her opportunity and boldly reached out to Jesus. The rest is history. Read Luke 8:40-48.

My prayer today is to know God's voice and follow God's will everyday.

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