

“Keep Looking Forward”

July 24, 2022

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## KEEP LOOKING FORWARD

Hebrews 12:1-2 “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Wednesday, July 20, 2022 – thoughts from the Lord in my morning prayer and study.

*Keep looking forward, don't look back at how things were but look to me I am the author and finisher of your faith. I will tell you what I am doing right now in your life and in My Church. In this season, you have the wind of my Spirit moving you forward. Don't look back. Keep moving forward. Keep your hands on the plow.*

*Those in the Kingdom of darkness are legislating their own laws and setting up their kingdom, but it will fail, it cannot stand, and it cannot endure. Their imaginations are running wild and their desires for wealth and power and pleasure have blinded them. They have gone mad. They call the evil works of darkness good and good evil. When you see their destruction do not rejoice in their calamity but rejoice in my faithfulness to save my righteous people, out of the hands of the enemy and their unjust schemes. Soon they will receive their reward.*

*When you come together look to me for help and strength. The problems of life will continue as long as you are in this world. But rejoice that I have overcome the world. Open your heart to me and what I am doing right now. You are free to worship me and live for me. You are my shining lights in the darkness. Be about your Father's business for the night is coming when no man can work. My kingdom is established right here and right now and my Kingdom is advancing. Keep looking forward.*

*In this season, you have the wind of my Spirit moving you forward.*

Isaiah 40:31: But those who wait on the LORD

Shall renew their strength;

They shall mount up with wings like eagles,

They shall run and not be weary,

They shall walk and not faint.

### **The Cost of Following Jesus**

Luke 9:57-62 Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, “Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.” 58 And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” 59 Then He said to another,

“Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” 60 Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.” 61 And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.” 62 But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

In Luke 17:32-33 Jesus said “Remember Lot’s wife. Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.”

## Genesis 19 – The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

Genesis 19:15-17 “When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, “Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city.” And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife’s hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, “Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed.”

Genesis 19:24-26 “Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.”

- Mrs. Lot failed to do what she was told
- Mrs. Lot looked back because she was in love with Sodom
- Mrs. Lot had a divided heart
- Mrs. Lot lost her life

What we learn from this historical account:

1. When God calls you out of a situation, one surrounded by sin, **don’t hesitate**, get moving!

Colossians 1:13-14 “For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (NIV)

2. Make a heart decision to do what God is telling you to do
3. Resist the temptation to look back

Several truths concerning Lot’s wife:

- a. She perished even though she had been warned of danger.
- b. She knew exactly what god had said he would do!
- c. She perished even though she made an effort to be saved.
- d. She was separated from the godless but was still lost.

e. She perished even though she was given clear directions.

Luke 17:32-33 Remember what happened to Lot's wife! If you grasp and cling to life on your terms, you'll lose it, but if you let that life go, you'll get life on God's terms. MSG