



RECALIBRATE YOUR LIFE

Navigating
Transitions
with Purpose
& Hope

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CHAPTER ONE

LEAVING A GODLY LEGACY



*As for man, his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field;
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.
But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting
to everlasting on those who fear him.*

PSALM 103:15-17

I (Ken) have had sixteen near-death experiences—these are, of course, the ones I know about. My first was a near-drowning experience at age thirteen. I swam out too far in a North Jersey lake and couldn't get myself back in. I began to slip under the water. After going under for the third time, I felt a hand pull me up even though no one had been around, and suddenly I found myself on shore. To this day I don't know who pulled me out of the water. I didn't have a relationship with Jesus at the time, so the incident certainly got my attention.

In those moments time often dilated for me, my entire life flashing before my eyes. I was suddenly aware that I am, like every other person on this planet, living on borrowed time.

These types of fear-inducing moments can help crystallize for us what God is trying to teach us every day. Life is brief. Life is fragile. Every day is precious; don't waste it. Tomorrow isn't guaranteed to anyone. *Live each day as though it could be the last.*

TOOL 3: ONE YEAR TO LIVE

Brushes with death—whether a near-drowning experience in your teenage years, a cancer diagnosis in your thirties, a heart attack in your fifties, or a life-threatening fall in your seventies—have a way of forcing us to ask the important questions that we should have been asking all along. They cause us to pause and reflect on whether we're spending our lives well. Take a moment to think over the following questions and then ask God to help you live in light of the answers.

- ◆ If you found out you only have one year to live, how would you spend your time and your resources (money, other assets) differently?
- ◆ If you found out you only have one year to live, what would you be leaving behind? Think in terms of both tangibles and intangibles.
- ◆ In light of your answers, consider,
 - How do you want to be remembered?
 - What course corrections should you make to ensure you're living every year (and day) as though it's your last?

Note: This exercise is not intended to discourage future planning or long-term pursuits! We all do well to live as though we have a year left, but plan as though we have more.

THE NEXT GENERATIONS AND THE BREVITY OF LIFE

Moses captured the transitory nature of human life in Psalm 90:

Teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom. (Psalm 90:12)

In this oldest of the psalms, the only one written by Moses, we have the perspective of a wise and godly man looking back on his journey at the end of a long life. At first, he recalls God's faithfulness across times and epochs:

Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
(Psalm 90:1-2)

Moses, by this point in his life, had the wisdom to know we should never live presumptuously but should live in expectation of the Spirit of God working in our lives; he had seen God do so repeatedly, rescuing his children in the wilderness even when they did not deserve it. He contrasts the nature of the *everlasting* God with human life, which is fleeting and returns to dust (Psalm 90:3).

Moses continues with a perspective on time. A millennium feels long from a human point of view, but for God it's like a day—a blip on the timeline of eternity. Moses then uses two metaphors to drive home the brevity of life:

You sweep them [generations] away as with a flood; they are
like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers. (Psalm 90:5-6)

The mindset is this: a generation comes, builds its buildings, and achieves some feats. But as soon as everything is built (sometimes even before the work is finished), it's as though a flood comes and washes it all away. Using another analogy, Moses says each generation is like grass—sprouting anew one day, withered and gone the next.

A. W. Tozer gives a similar metaphor in *The Knowledge of the Holy*, drawing from a verse in the book of Job. “The days of the years of our lives are few, and swifter than a weaver’s shuttle. Life is a short and fevered rehearsal for a concert we cannot stay to give. Just when we appear to have attained some proficiency we are forced to lay our instruments down.”¹

Have you seen weavers working a loom? They take the shuttle and shoot it across the loom, then down. This was a brilliant way of fast-forwarding long before such technology existed. The analogy is that of one day after another whizzing past, and before you know it, the weaving is complete.

Such is the nature of life.

If you’ve ever stood on the ocean shore observing the tide, you’ll catch the vision that both Moses and Tozer are communicating. Humans and all their earthly achievements are like those huge, grand sandcastles—impressive for a moment, but as soon as the tide comes in, they’re swept along with whatever other rubble surrounded them—seaweed, shells, dead jellyfish, ocean debris. Before long you’d never know any of it was there. All that’s left is the foundation.

The question we all wonder is, *Am I building sandcastles that will be knocked down and forgotten forever once I die?* In other words, *Am I writing my name on water?* Or am I living in a way that will make a permanent mark? Is there a sure foundation I can build on—something I can do or be that will never get swept away?

Scripture contends that our lives *do* matter, not only collectively but individually, and that each of us can serve as a link from one generation

to the next. In other words we can leave a positive, godly legacy that makes an eternal imprint. And we need not wait to begin building this legacy.

LEGACY FROM GOD'S STANDPOINT

The Bible speaks of “legacy” using terms such as *inheritance*, *offspring*, *generations*, and *descendants*. Some of the most poignant passages about what it means to live and leave a godly legacy are found in the psalms. In Psalm 145, for example, the psalmist (David) writes:

One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.
On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.
They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
(Psalm 145:4-7)

The following passage bears a similar sentiment:

O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.
So even to old age and gray hairs,
O God, do not forsake me,
until I proclaim your might to another generation,
your power to all those to come. (Psalm 71:17-18)²

Psalm 78, attributed to Asaph, focuses almost exclusively on the coming generation. Notice the warning to those who forget God and refuse to repent and live for him:

He made their days vanish like a breath,
and their years in terror. (Psalm 78:33)

The lives of these unfaithful people are not only fleeting but end “in terror.” Moreover, the work they accomplished during their earthly sojourns has no lasting meaning—it’s utterly destroyed:

He gave their crops to the destroying locust
and the fruit of their labor to the locust. (Psalm 78:46)

Of course, all crops and livestock die eventually, but the point is symbolic. The final verdict of their work represents the opposite of what Moses prays for:

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands! (Psalm 90:17)

Here, we see the first important truth that we must grab hold of if any of us is to have any kind of lasting legacy: *it is God who gives us a legacy*. He establishes our work (here, we’re referring to *work* in a broad sense) and makes it meaningful. Try as we might to establish our own legacies, the blessing of having our lives count from a kingdom standpoint is his to determine.

A second important truth about legacy is closely related to the first. *Legacy from a biblical standpoint is about God, not us*. If our primary concern is that *we* are remembered, we’ve missed the point of life. Psalm 45 teaches us instead that perpetuating God’s name is what counts—and it’s what makes *our lives* count:

I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.
(Psalm 45:17)

This prayer echoes the spirit of Psalm 145. Notice that passage (145:4-7) focuses on God, not on us. While his people are given the privilege of living forever in his presence, the key to legacy on earth is a desire to honor the Creator, who binds every generation together. Take a look at the content of this legacy from Psalm 145:4-7 in table 2.1.

Table 2.1. Content of a godly legacy

How (command/verb)	What
commend/praise	God's works
declare	his mighty acts
meditate	his majesty, his wondrous works
speak	the might of his awesome deeds
declare/tell	his greatness
pour forth/eagerly utter	his abundant goodness
sing aloud/shout joyfully	his righteousness
<i>(Words taken from ESV and NASB)</i>	

How we accomplish what David prays in Psalm 145 will be distinctive to each of our lives and contexts.

SELF- OR CHRIST-EXALTING?

Luke, a recent college graduate, isn't yet sure what the content of his legacy will be, but he understands the one who will establish it.

"I first started thinking about legacy after watching *National Treasure: Book of Secrets*," Luke explains. "The villain in that movie chose to give up his life to make his 'mark on history'; to him it was the only thing that mattered in the end. It got the thought rolling around in my head: Who's going to remember me? What are they going to remember me for?"

Though raised in a Christian family, Luke underwent a transformation in his early twenties. Having known the gospel for years, the faith of his parents was finally made real to him.

"After spending a lot of time pursuing self-importance, God broke into my heart and shuffled around my thoughts on legacy," Luke says. "I can leave a legacy now by making my business the pursuit of Christ. Can I be more like him today? That's the real question of legacy now. Let him take me to glorious places or keep me out of the limelight. Either way I know I'm spending my life the best way I possibly can."

Although Luke, like many people his age, says he isn't yet sure what he wants to do with his life, as a student of the Word who hungers for

the wisdom of older mentors and guides, and who isn't preoccupied with his own sense of significance, he is positioned better than most of his peers to discern the unique purpose God has created him for. And in an age of selfies and social media, his spurning of self-exaltation is certainly admirable and unusual.

Luke's mindset contrasts starkly with the king's in Percy Bysshe Shelley's poem "Ozymandias," whose lasting mark was a pedestal containing these words:

My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings;
 Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!
 Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
 Of that colossal Wreck, boundless and bare
 The lone and level sands stretch far away.

Focused on making a name for himself, Ozymandias epitomized what he tried so hard *not* to become: a shattered statue, lifeless and devoid of glory. The poet's words contrast starkly with those of the psalmist's:

The righteous flourish like the palm tree
 and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
 They are planted in the house of the LORD;
 they flourish in the courts of our God.
 They still bear fruit in old age;
 they are ever full of sap and green,
 to declare that the LORD is upright;
 he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.
 (Psalm 92:12-15)

Crumbling, lifeless stone or an ever-living, verdant tree? As Luke expressed so well, we can pursue self-importance or Christlikeness, self-exaltation or Christ exaltation. Our choice determines our final legacy.

Make no mistake, God honors the individual; we're not lost in a sea of collectivity. But ultimately, all points to him, and a preoccupation

with preserving our own memory, for our own sake and name, is not scriptural. Instead, for those who follow and love God, he promises to establish us, our work, and our purpose—for *his* name's sake.

WHAT ABOUT CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN?

If you ask people what their plans are for their retirement years, those who have a plan almost always mention family—especially children and grandchildren. Investing in the next generation provides one of the greatest senses of satisfaction and lasting significance. And yet even *this* can have only a fleeting impact if it is not done with a God-centered focus and purpose.

When I (Jenny) struggled for over a decade with infertility, one of the concerns I had related to inheritance. The question wasn't just who gets all our stuff after we die (although for items like photographs and journals, I certainly mulled that over periodically). There was also an innate desire for not only my physical DNA but the spiritual and moral DNA of my life, of our family, to be continued. Who would be the recipient of these things if I never had children? Most of us never consider how this very honest, human question might preoccupy those who remain single or childless.

Offspring in the Bible are a good and godly desire (Psalm 127:3-5). Paul goes so far as to say that if we don't take care of our relatives, we have effectively "denied the faith" and are "worse than an unbeliever" (1 Timothy 5:8).

To be sure, we're commanded to be fruitful and multiply biologically speaking. But legacy, according to the Bible, goes beyond DNA and blood relations.

God promised to bless the entire world through descendants of Abraham, many of whom would not be directly related by blood to him. The Jewish rulers often fell into the same trap we do, thinking that

biological relations are what matter. No wonder they were so confused by Jesus' words recorded in the Gospel of Matthew: "Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise children for Abraham" (Matthew 3:9).

Throughout Jesus' ministry the truth became clear: God is not concerned with DNA-based legacy (bloodline inheritance). He is concerned with those who are spiritual children of Abraham—that is, children of the promise he made to Abraham (Romans 9:8).

When we think of legacy and inheritance, we must have this expanded, scriptural view as well. Psalm 145 never says that our acts of declaring, praising, and singing of God to the next generation *have* to be done toward children we call our own (biological or adopted). Of course, if we have them, we should do so (1 Timothy 5:8). But our legacy shouldn't stop there. And if we don't have earthly progeny, we can still fully answer God's call to bear lasting fruit.

The question is this:

Who are you investing in to ensure that the works of God, the goodness of God, and the faithfulness of God are passed on to the next generation?

It might be young neighbors, children of friends, the kids in the nursery at church, the young people at the school or college down the road, or the members of the baseball team you coach. It might not even be young people directly—you might be a teacher or mentor or encourager to others who are training the next generation. Or you might be writing books that have an impact on both the current and next generations. The possibilities of spiritual fruitfulness and legacy are endless, and they go far beyond biology.

Consider Andrea. She never married or had children. After more than three decades as an administrator with a large department store, she keenly felt the changed (slower) pace that retirement brought.

With “so little to do compared to when I was working,” and knowing she “wasn’t doing [herself] any favors by becoming a total couch potato,” she joined a gym and began exercising several times a week with a trainer (despite being “*very* sedentary” throughout her life). The workouts, however, did more harm than good, and she was soon dealing with crippling pain. Now recovered, she looks back and realizes the experience was one way God was shifting her focus more toward him in her later years. Her attention turned from frantically trying to get fit and lose some pounds to “enjoying doing whatever the Lord gives [her] to do and becoming the woman he created [her] to be.” Although she still walks for exercise, she is pursuing a more balanced, “reasonable” (for her) schedule of activities that focuses on God instead of herself.

“There’s an old poem that begins, ‘Grow old along with me. The best is yet to be—the last of life for which the first was made,’” Andrea quotes. “Although I haven’t had a spouse with whom to grow old, I value my brother’s family and my close friends who are like sisters, and [I] want to be the example and encourager they need.” In addition to investing in extended family, she leads the music ministry at her church, is part of the teaching team for her church’s women’s Bible study, and sings with a statewide choir.

“After I retired,” Andrea reflects,

I had to relearn how to thank him for every moment, the many quiet ones and the less-frequent busy ones, and even for the physical pain. I pray that my brother and his wife, my nephew and niece and their families, my friends and congregation will remember me as a woman who loved God and them above all else, a woman devoted to God’s Word and to prayer. I’m not rich in this world’s goods, so I’ll have little to leave them otherwise. I want to be remembered as one who was content with the life she lived in the flesh—a life lived by the grace of God who loved me and gave himself for me.

Andrea's desire and example may seem unimpressive, ordinary. Who will ever know her impact besides the few in her circle of influence? But this is a worldly perspective that overlooks the beauty of such a life. Rest assured, in God's kingdom her ministry will not be overlooked. Hers is like the heart of the woman who spent all the wealth she had to anoint Jesus' feet with oil, and about whom the Lord said, "wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her" (Matthew 26:13). Andrea's quiet but joyful perseverance in obeying God's call to "work out [her] own salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12) to the very end of her earthly pilgrimage is the kind of legacy Scripture calls us to leave behind. It's a legacy that may go unrecognized and hidden to the world but will be celebrated by the Father and multiplied in its impact on his kingdom.

Human pride desires to be recognized by people and assured of the significance and results of our actions; the humble person desires that others remember God and honor *his* name because of how they lived.

TOOL 4: CREATING A LEGACY JOURNAL, DOCUMENT, OR OTHER RECORD

There is an incredible array of possibilities for passing along messages to others when you leave this earth, and many of them require some planning and effort. For example, I (Jenny) began journaling for each of my children shortly after they were born, and I plan to give these journals to them when they are older. Many people keep legacy boxes that they plan to leave to their children, and these are easiest to compile along the way so you aren't scrambling later in life to track down special items.

Following are just a few examples, which range from the personal and subjective to the more formal and objective. We

encourage you to think through your style and life situation to determine which method(s) you'd like to use to communicate a life legacy message.

- ◆ a prayer journal (recording requests and how God answered)
- ◆ a personal diary or journal (recording your reactions to, reflections on, or prayers related to everyday living, important milestones, or key events or periods of your life)
- ◆ life letters to loved ones—personalized messages to individuals, such as a spouse or child (see tool 17)
- ◆ a collection of letters (rather than a single life letter, you can write to a particular person regularly across your lifetime and then instruct for the letters to be handed over to the intended recipient in a special box or packaging after or just before you die)
- ◆ a collection of family stories (documenting family lore from your own life as well as generations before yours)
- ◆ a faith journey document (ranging in length from a summary to a book, this can discuss your conversion as well as your testimony after God brought you to the faith)
- ◆ a biographical profile (including professional and personal highlights)
- ◆ a legacy statement/message (a record of what you want others to learn from your life or what you hope to pass on to the next generation)
- ◆ a visual/multimedia legacy (a DVD, slideshow, or similar presentation that uses photographs, audio, or video recordings to communicate your love and legacy)
- ◆ a legacy box (including any of the previous written documents but would also include special objects, mementos, news clippings, postcards, or letters you've received, stories or books you've written, and any other items that have meaning to you;

hint: be sure to label or create an index to tell where each item came from and why it's significant)

Need help getting started? Numerous services exist to aid people with the compilation of legacy documents. Two examples are StoryWorth (welcome.storyworth.com) and StoryCorps (storycorps.org). These make wonderful gifts for children and grandchildren.

DON'T WAIT OR THINK IT'S TOO LATE

As we think about legacy, we can make several mistakes. One (as just discussed) is to overemphasize our biological progeny as the recipients of our legacy. Another is to overemphasize material belongings, thinking only in terms of wills and estates, especially finances and physical assets. A third mistake relates to age and time.

When we're younger, we tend to overemphasize the future—thinking we'll get around to doing the things that matter and will make a long-term impact later, after we're done with the more urgent business of working to make money, support ourselves and our family, and so on. Elizabeth, a single twentysomething, expressed this tendency this way:

Even though cognitively I know that I'm leaving a legacy now, I often feel like I'm being prepared to leave a legacy. . . . I can't shake the sensation that I'm waiting for something to happen at which point I will start leaving my actual legacy and living my actual life. But I don't really know what snap I'm waiting for!

Our legacy on earth has already begun (see introduction); it is not built later in life but throughout our lives, every single day, based on how we spend our time, talent, and other resources. We aren't *preparing* to leave a legacy; we're doing so already.

As a result the father who chooses to spend a little less time at the office and a little more time at home while the kids are still young makes a wise sacrifice. Likewise, the young single woman who invests spare time that she has now (and may *not* have later if and when she marries) is building her legacy as she mentors young girls struggling with self-image and helps them see their worth and value in Christ. The college students who work as Christian camp counselors over the summer are reaching youth in ways that older adults might not be able to; they too are contributing to their legacy. These are but three examples. Bottom line:

Legacy isn't just for later.

On the flip side, as we age we can tend to underestimate our older selves and think *our best years are behind us*. While our health and physical vitality may wane and our circle of influence may shrink, the greatest opportunity to make an impact on the next generations can come toward the end of life. In large part this is because in our later years we tend to have

- ◆ more free (flexible) time
- ◆ more resources (tangible and human ones)
- ◆ greater wisdom and skills (the kind that comes only from experience)

Of course, these are not universally true, but they are general trends. And if we are wise, we will seize the uniqueness of the season called old age and spend it on the things that truly matter. This doesn't mean we never play golf, take a trip, pursue pleasures, or even spoil the kids and grandkids. Hear us clearly when we say there is nothing necessarily wrong with taking time to golf, helping a grandchild pay for college or even spoiling them a little, or traveling the globe.

It truly is never too early nor too late to leave a lasting legacy.

RECALIBRATING

Each of us is on earth for a purpose, and God is the one who establishes our legacy. To truly have a lasting impact we need to continually recalibrate our perspective of our time (whether we have decades or days left to live) and our resources (tangible and intangible) so that we are living in light of eternity.

Whether we are still running marathons or are severely limited physically, even bedridden, God wants to use each of us to make a lasting impact. In his economy it's not about quantity but quality, trusting that he has the power to multiply the effect of any small effort made with an attitude of submission to him. In this vein, whether we are young or old, asking endgame questions about all our activities can help ensure we will leave a godly legacy rather than pursue our own comfort or fame:

- ◆ Why am I doing this?
- ◆ Is there some other way God is calling me to spend my time, effort, or money?
- ◆ Is there any way I can do this same activity but with more of a God-centered focus?
- ◆ Am I loving God and others in this?

We need humility when answering these questions. We must be willing to make adjustments, to remain teachable and supple at all times. So many succumb to a hardening of the categories, a worse disease than the hardening of the arteries. With this condition a person becomes nearly immune to any change of thought process or life approach as they age. But no matter how much we think we know, we always have more to learn! God is always taking us even deeper and will use our pursuit of him in ways we don't always see or understand. We do both ourselves and others a disservice if we drop out of the game and sideline ourselves at any point. Our most effective time of ministry can come at any stage of our lives, for God is not constricted in the ways we are.

We encourage you to pause and take at least one concrete step toward leaving a godly legacy. Here are three ideas:

- ◆ Prayerfully review tool 4 and decide on an action item from it.
- ◆ Find a younger (less mature) brother or sister in the faith to invest in and encourage—someone God has placed in your path who may already look to you as an example or role model (see Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 10:24; Titus 2:1-14). Commit to regularly spending time with that person.
- ◆ Review tool 5. Which practices or principles is God prompting you to focus on? Which do you want to pass on to the next generation? Choose one from each category (three total) and pray for God's help in those areas. These principles and values are part of your legacy.

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READ AND REFLECT ON

Psalm 145

.....
Consider memorizing verses 4, 18

Prayer: Lord, help me to know you have created me for a purpose, you love me, and you want to use me to proclaim your name and goodness throughout the world and down through the generations. You will establish the work of my hands when I submit it to you—this is my legacy. May I never take for granted a single day in which you've given me life and breath, and may you give me the grace to respond to your loving overtures and guidance with joyful obedience and trust. Amen.

**TOOL 5: PRINCIPLES AND
 VALUES TO LIVE BY**

Following is a list of thirty-six personal principles and values to live by.³ They provide the basis for a powerful, godly legacy. We recommend you choose one principle or value per category (three total) to focus

on at a time (e.g., monthly). The goal is to help you integrate your life in Christ with your life in the world. For further edification see the expanded version of this tool online (recalibrateyourlife.org), which provides brief explanations of each principle or value along with Scripture passages for reading and meditation.

Two Important Cautions

1. Do not try to focus on all or even many of these principles or values at once (that would be overwhelming).
2. Do not use these principles as a whip or club to beat yourself up when you fall short (as we all do). No one can fully attain these ideals; they are intended as an inspirational target to aim for.

Pursue God

- ◆ Grow in faith.
- ◆ Hold fast to hope.
- ◆ Deepen your love for God.
- ◆ Value the eternal over the temporal.
- ◆ Grow in grace.
- ◆ Commit to the centrality of Christ.
- ◆ Remember your deepest needs are met in Christ.
- ◆ Practice God's presence.
- ◆ Seek fresh bread (don't live on yesterday's faith).
- ◆ Cultivate a seeing eye (looking for the glory of God in the natural world).
- ◆ Invite the friendship and nearness of God.
- ◆ Abide in the Son.

Pursue Godly Character

- ◆ Cultivate a spirit of humility and teachability.
- ◆ Live with a stewardship mindset (i.e., all we have is God's).

- ◆ Commit to the ongoing exercise and renewal of spirit, soul, and body.
- ◆ Seek personal integrity (congruence between the inside and the outside).
- ◆ Stand firm in spiritual warfare (by submitting to God first).
- ◆ Obey God to avoid living with regret.
- ◆ Choose gratitude and joy.
- ◆ Live as a pilgrim.
- ◆ Be aware that good and evil both increase at compound interest.
- ◆ Be shaped by the Word, not the world.
- ◆ Develop habits of holiness.
- ◆ Live with two days on the calendar: today and *that* Day.

Pursue the Highest Good of Others

- ◆ Commit to the second Great Commandment.
- ◆ Live with a radical commitment to the Great Commission.
- ◆ Rely on the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ Treat people better than they deserve.
- ◆ Cultivate compassion for the least, the last, and the lost.
- ◆ Be quick to forgive.
- ◆ Commit to openness and honesty in relationships.
- ◆ Let your intimacy with Christ animate your activity.
- ◆ Leave results to God.
- ◆ Resist comparison (the enemy of contentment).
- ◆ Look for *kairos* moments (God's loving initiatives that may at first appear as interruptions).
- ◆ Encourage, exhort, and edify other believers.

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