

The Grindstone

August 8, 2005

"LIFE IS LIKE A GRINDSTONE, SOMEONE ONCE SAID, AND WHETHER IT GRINDS YOU DOWN OR POLISHES YOU UP DEPENDS ON THE STUFF YOU ARE MADE OF."

THESE WORDS ARE SO VERY TRUE IN OUR LIVES TODAY AS WE CONFRONT TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY THE SAME WORDS CAN BE SAID ABOUT OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE AS WELL. EACH DAY WE ARE CONFRONTED WITH STRESSFUL THINGS IN OUR LIFE. IT MAY BE THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE, A ILLNESS IN YOUR FAMILY OR TO A FRIEND, YOU MAY HAVE LOST YOUR JOB, YOU MAYBE GOING THROUGH A DIVORCE AND THE LIST GOES ON EACH AND EVERYDAY. THE ONE THING YOU CAN BANK ON, IS THE DEVIL WILL TRY TO GRIND YOU DOWN DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES IN OUR LIVES TO THE POINT WHERE YOU NOT ONLY GIVE UP ON YOURSELF, BUT GOD AS WELL.

WE HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT NOBODY IS BEYOND TEMPTATION, NOT EVEN JESUS HIMSELF, JUST LOOK AT MATTHEW 4:1-3

THEN JESUS WAS LED BY THE SPIRIT INTO THE DESERT TO BE TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL. AFTER FASTING FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS, HE WAS HUNGRY. THE TEMPTER CAME TO HIM AND SAID, "IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD, TELL THESE STONES TO BECOME BREAD."

NOBODY IS OUT OF REACH WHERE TEMPTATION WILL FALL UPON US, ESPECIALLY AT OUR WEAKEST MOMENTS. THIS TRULY IS WHEN THE DEVIL HITS OUR WEAKNESSES MORE THAN ANY OTHER TIME. HE IS THE ULTIMATE GRINDER AND WILL KEEP COMING AT YOU TO TRY HIS BEST AND WEAR YOU DOWN.

LOOK AT WHAT JESUS TELLS HIS DISCIPLES WHEN HE GOES TO PRAY RIGHT BEFORE BEING CAPTURED AND CARRIED OFF TO BE CRUCIFIED. HE COMES BACK ONCE FROM PRAYING TO FIND HIS DISCIPLES SLEEPING, WHO WERE SUPPOSE TO BE ON WATCH FOR HIM. HE TURNS TO THEM AND SAYS IN MATTHEW 26:41 "WATCH AND PRAY SO THAT YOU WILL NOT FALL INTO TEMPTATION. THE SPIRIT IS WILLING BUT THE BODY IS WEAK."

I CAN HONESTLY UNDERSTAND WHAT HE IS TELLING HIS DISCIPLES IN THIS VERSE. THE LAST FOUR YEARS, OVER THREE OF THEM BEING ON A VENTILATOR, HE HAS ATTACKED ME EVER WAY POSSIBLE. FROM TELLING ME THAT HARD CORE DRUGS LIKE MORPHINE AND OTHERS WOULD SURE MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER AND WHY DON'T YOU JUST GIVE UP AND DIE. IN THESE SITUATIONS I IMMEDIATELY TURN TO THE LORD AND PRAY. I CAN TELL YOU NOT ONCE HAS THE DEVIL EVER WON IN THOSE SITUATIONS. I JUST SNICKER AND TELL THE DEVIL TO TAKE THAT ONE BUDDY.

I AM NOT SAYING PEOPLE DON'T EVER NEED TO TAKE MORPHINE OR OTHER DRUGS BECAUSE THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THE PAIN BECOMES SO UNBEARABLE THAT THEY ARE INDEED NEEDED TO RELIEVE THE PAIN AND SUFFERING. BUT, THE DEVIL WILL USE EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER TO KEEP YOU ON THEM SO THE DRUGS REPLACE CALLING OUT TO GOD FOR HIS HELP.

THINK OF THE GRINDSTONE AS THE DEVIL, HE CAN EITHER WEAR YOU DOWN OR POLISH YOU UP DURING TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS BY SEEKING AND CALLING OUT TO OUR HEAVENLY OUR FATHER.

THE BIBLE CLEARLY STATES THAT THE DEVIL CAME FOR ONE REASON IN JOHN 10:10

THE THIEF(MEANING THE DEVIL) COMES ONLY TO STEAL AND KILL AND DESTROY; I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE, AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL.

I LOVE VERSES JOHN 10:9 AND 11 WHERE JESUS TELLS US IN VERSE 9 I AM THE GATE; WHOEVER ENTERS THROUGH ME WILL BE SAVED. VERSE 11 "I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD. THE GOOD SHEPHERD LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE FOR THE SHEEP.

FOLKS, FOR A LONG TIME IN MY LIFE, EVEN WHEN I WAS A CHRISTIAN, I THOUGHT I COULD HANDLE EVERYTHING ON MY OWN. I WAS BIG AND STRONG, WHO NEEDED GOD AT THAT TIME. I COULD DO IT BY MYSELF NO MATTER THE SITUATION. BUT SOMETHING BAD HAPPENED, THE DOCTOR TOLD ME I HAD LOU GEHRIG'S AND NO SHOT OF LIVING. YOU COULD SAY I WAS GRINDED TO DUST AT THAT POINT. BUT GUESS WHAT? I TURNED TO GOD AND HE POLISHED ME UP LIKE I WAS BRAND NEW. MY BODY MAYBE WILTED AWAY TO NOTHING, BUT MY SPIRIT IS SOARING HIGH.

YOU SEE, THE MAN YOU ARE ON OUTSIDE DOESN'T MATTER BECAUSE IT WILL EVENTUALLY ONE DAY WHITHER AWAY AND DIE, BUT WHAT MATTERS MOST IS THE RELATIONSHIP YOU DEVELOP WITH OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST, BECAUSE THAT PART WILL NEVER DIE YOUNG.

SO WHAT KIND OF STUFF ARE YOU MADE OF? ARE YOU STRONG IN YOUR FLESHLY BODY AND YOUR MIND OR ARE YOU GROWING IN RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS?

I CAN ONLY GUARANTEE ONE THING IN THIS LIFE, AND THAT IS EVERY ONE OF OUR BODIES WILL DIE AND EVERY BELIEVER IN CHRIST WILL LIVE FOREVER IN HEAVEN.

JOHN 3-16

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVE IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVER LASTING LIFE.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL!
KEITH LECLAIR