

# FOLLOWING RAINBOWS WHILE TRACKING HURRICANES

Dr. Fred Fourie ~ Sunday, August 26, 2007



## Galatians 6: 1-10

My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ. For if, those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. For all must carry their own loads. Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher. Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. **So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.** So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith. <>

Once again, we are in the midst of the hurricane season! Whether we enjoy doing so or not, most of us track every storm with potential to come our way. How do you prepare for something that threatens you, something that you have no control over? I came across well-meant advice in this regard. **Step one** ~ buy enough supplies to last your family for at least three days. **Step two** ~ put these supplies into your car. **Step three** ~ **drive to Nebraska and remain there until Halloween!** ☺ Just a few days ago, many people living on the Gulf Coast were tracking hurricane Dean. **Houston was nervous enough to bring the Shuttle back a full day early.** Once again, untold thousands of people had to put their lives and plans on hold while thinking about plywood, generators and chain saws!

How do you live your dreams and follow rainbows of hope while reality brings hurricanes **and so many other** challenges directly on your path? Victor Frankl, the famous psychologist, who survived the holocaust, was imprisoned, stripped, beaten, starved and deprived in every way in Hitler's death camps. Afterwards, he explained his secret of survival. "One thing they could not take away from me, and that was **the ability to choose how I would respond to my situation.**

A well-meaning woman was talking to a **handicapped student** trying to sell magazine subscriptions and said, "My, having such a handicap must have colored your life!" The *young* man brightly responded, "**it certainly has, but, thank God, I can choose the color!**"

We all know persons like this brave young man. Many radiant individuals **bring a new perspective of hope and life into a difficult situation**. Such persons are not born that way but choose to become that way as they pick their attitudes."

**Attitude surely has something to do with it!** "The thoughts we choose to think are the tools we use to paint the canvas of our lives." **The colors we choose** to paint the picture of our lives determine whether we will be a victim or victor! **The colors we choose** determine whether we will quit when the first roadblock and detour of life comes upon us, or whether we have the courage and commitment to go the extra mile and distance to reach our destination.

What will grab our attention and help us focus our life's direction? Will it be **energy and enthusiasm** or will it be **discouragement and disillusionment**? What happens when we run head on into unexpected detours, dead-end alleys and rugged roadblocks? Do we become disappointed, disillusioned, depressed, and defeated? Do we raise our hands in despair, turn around, and go home?

Many are experiencing hardships or receive unwarranted criticisms and attacks, which can turn their dreams into nightmares. Question is, "How are you responding when these things happen to you? **How are you allowing them to color your life?"**

**Do you know that the only difference between a piece of coal and a diamond are pressure and heat?** How do we handle the pressures of life and how do we allow them to "to color" our lives?

In our Scripture reading today, the Apostle Paul advises the first Christians to respond to pressures and have their lives colored with a rainbow of hope. **So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.** That is what our faith does for us. We can cope with the changing circumstances of life because we believe in faith that we are **standing** on a rock ~ and although we are **trembling** while we stand ~ we know that **the rock will never tremble** under us. Jesus taught us to build our lives on this rock solid faith-foundation.

How can we respond to the roadblocks of life? First response is to keep the dream alive. Dreams can be the most powerful and pervasive force at work in our world. Dreams of freedom and religious liberties propelled countless persons to move across oceans and unknown lands. **As long as the dream was alive, so were the people who pursued them.**

After the devastating loss of the space shuttles Challenger and Columbia – NASA went back to the drawing board, keeping the dream alive - with the hope and the vision – **"We will fly again."** Never underestimate the power of visions and dreams!

**Lech Walesa** followed the rainbow of hope for freedom for his fatherland and changed the destiny of Poland. **Mother Teresa** was a dreamer. Her dreams and visions made her the leading spokesperson for the cause of the **helpless, hopeless, and homeless** in the world. Her dreams were the fuel that kept the flames of her witness alive.

**Do you have an idea and a dream?** How do these ideas and dreams move and inspire your activities today and in the future? How do these dreams and ideas measure up with God's dreams and visions for our world and for our shared life as a community of faith?

During this past week, some **key leaders in our Church** held an important meeting, **with serious discussion and ambitious planning** about the hopes and dreams of this Church. Quo Vadis provided us with the vision that this church must grow and remain an oasis of hope and spiritual life for generations to come! **What are your hopes, dreams and visions for your church family?** Do you want us to be an **oasis of faith and refuge** for those living around here, serving according to God's will? Do you see this church in your dreams **as a certain rock in an unsteady stream?** The scriptures picture the church as the body of Christ, the **salt of the Earth, the light of the world and the leaven in the loaf.**

Dreamers in our church are working on new strategies and plans **to retain and to broaden** the foothold that we have in the Space Coast. The impossible can happen when the people of God begin to follow the rainbow of faith and to let those dreams and visions come true! Our challenge is around us. What is your dream for your Church? **Are you following a rainbow or tracking a hurricane?**

Please keep on dreaming for yourself and for our Church! **Our faith in God will enable us** to deal creatively with every challenge that the future holds.

Faith makes it possible **to accept that which we cannot change**, to meet even disappointments and sorrow with an inner poise, and to absorb the most intense pain without ever, ever abandoning our hope!

Scripture says, "So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up."

From the classic movie, "The Sound of Music," comes the advice,

**"Climb every mountain ~ Search high and low ~ Follow every by-way ~ Every path you know ~ A dream that will need ~ All the love you can give ~ Everyday of your life ~ For as long as you live ~ Climb every mountain ~ Ford every stream ~ Follow every rainbow ~ 'Till you find your dream."**

**AMEN**

