



Thursday Thought

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“Dooms Day”

Thursday, November 10, 2016

Verse for the week. Galatians 6:9 (NLT) “So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up!”

Recently I preached a message entitled “What if...?” It was about dreaming, and that in order to see dreams come to fruition we have to get off the couch, roll up our sleeves, and get to work. Dreaming is fun but it also has a negative side. During the political season, many candidates share their dreams. It never fails that their opponent or one of their constituents begin to bloviate (*to bloviate is to talk, but not just to chat. To bloviate means to go on and on and on and on, usually in a pompous way.*) about all the negatives of the candidate’s plan. By the time the opposition is finished, they have made it sound like if we elect the individual, it will lead to “Dooms Day” for the world.

Every day it appears we face a battle in our minds. We start feeling ill, and the next thing you know we have convinced ourselves that we have some disease. We are working towards achieving a goal, and we get tired and start overanalyzing and before you know it, “Dooms Day” is just ahead. Once we start thinking about “Dooms Day”, we become discouraged, and depressed. Joyce Meyer, in her book *Battlefield of the Mind*, writes, **“Discouragement destroys hope, so naturally the devil always tries to discourage us. Without hope we give up...”** This was evident in Florence Chadwick as she attempted to swim 26 miles between Catalina Island and the California coastline in 1952. As she began, she was flanked by small boats that watched for sharks and were prepared to help her if she got hurt or grew tired. After about 15 hours a thick fog set in. Florence began to doubt her ability, and she told her mother, who was in one of the boats, that she didn’t think she could make it. She swam for another hour before asking to be pulled out, unable to see the coastline due to the fog. **As she sat in the boat, she found out she had stopped swimming just one mile away from her destination.** Wow, how discouraging, and it was all because she was tired and psyched herself out. The next year she swam it again and succeeded! Thomas Edison wrote, **“Many of life’s failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.”** Wherever you are right now, let me encourage you to not give up. “Dooms Day” may or may not be ahead, but we need to keep pressing on and not give up! The apostle Paul said in **Philippians 3:14 (NLT) “I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us”**

Questions to ask yourself: What situation are you facing that you have allowed yourself to think the worst? What will you do to begin to focus on positive things rather than the “what if” negatives?