



Thursday Thought

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“Expecting too little - Hazel the duck”

Thursday August 31, 2017

Verse for the week: James 4:2b-3 (NLT) “Yet you don’t have what you want because you don’t ask God for it. 3 And even when you ask, you don’t get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.”

Last year we received two baby ducks along with their mother, a bantam hen. The two ducks, Hazel and Grettle, grew and learned they could fly and would fly away for the day and then come back for the evening. This past Spring their length of time being gone increased and eventually they were gone for several months. We thought we would never see them again but then one-day Hazel came flying back. She never left but she began eating the chicken eggs and harassing the hens. I decided that she needed to stop so I started only allowing her in the chicken yard at night. While she was out I hooked her up with some food and water but not too far away from the chicken yard we have a stream with fresh cool water running through. She could have gone down there but never did. She could have flown and gotten back into the chicken yard, but she didn’t. Instead she would walk around the chicken yard fence again and again all day, and occasionally would come up to the food and water or get chased by one of our dogs.

As I pondered Hazel the duck, I realized that she was living beneath her potential and expecting too little. We do the same thing! How?

1. **By ignoring the potentials that are in plain sight.** – We get so focused on one area or one thing that we ignore the potential that is right in front of us. For Hazel the duck, it was the stream. For you and me it can be anything. **John 4:35b** says, **“But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest.”**
2. **By saying that it can’t be done.** How often do we use the excuse “I can’t!”? It annoys me to hear it because often we haven’t tried. In Hazel the ducks case, she had tried but maybe there was some traumatic experience she had and decided that she no longer wanted to even though it would benefit her. We have amazing potential as humans and can achieve much even if we have had a bad experience. We need to stop saying “I can’t!” and start saying “I CAN!”. And for the believer, we have the help of God’s presence within us. **Zachariah 4:6 (NLT)“Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the Lord Almighty.”**
3. **By wandering around without a plan** – Once we see the potential and say “I CAN!” we need to develop a plan. Poor Hazel the duck just wandered around the outside of the chicken yard because she had no plan. **Proverbs 21:16(NLT)** says, **“The person who strays from common sense will end up in the company of the dead.”**

Are you ignoring potentials, saying “it can’t be done” or just wandering around? It’s time to rise up and pursue the dreams that God has given you! It’s time to start expecting more of yourself!

Question to ask yourself: In what area of your life are you expecting too little?