FOUR POINTS OF PROGRESS

NSD Stacy James recently sent me four points of progress from the studies that she has been involved in. I would like to share those with you today.

1. **You can only be happy when you can determine what it is that you are going to think about for the next hour.**

Happiness comes from our thoughts. Our thoughts create our state of mind. Happiness is not the absence of difficulty, discouragement or disappointment. We deal with most of those things on a daily basis. It is the degrees in which those things effect us that make a difference in our capacity for happiness during our day to day existence. Meaning, someone steals your parking space. Some people respond by thinking, "Obviously that person needed that parking place more than I at this moment" OR "obviously that person is inconsiderate and feels validated by stealing someone else's parking space. So hey, I'M glad that I am not them. What a yucky way to think and live." OR, "I can't believe that he just did that! The world is filled with idiots and there he is a perfect specimen of a selfish jerk" OR, "I can't believe that this is happening to me. These kinds of things happen to me all of the time. The world is against me. I can never get a break. Life is rotten!" I realize that those examples are representative of one extreme to the next. But isn't that what happens to everyone. It is just that some people give all the stuff that happens, little time and energy. They don't even really stop to think about it, and most certainly don't dwell on it. Soooo, if you don't give credence to the stuff...it will begin to feel as if you don't really have much stuff to deal with. Happiness is not the absence of stuff, it is how your mind processes it and how much time and energy you give to it. So that comes down to the question. What is occupying your mind? Choose the things that you want to dwell on.

Joyce Meyers says that negative thoughts and actions are a waste of time. A waste of life. You are wasting good, happy joy filled living time on….wrong thinking thoughts. She said that, in her past she wasted a lot of her life wallowing on negatives. Why things can't happen. Why life is not fair. Why she didn't get to do things she wanted to do or felt that she should be able to do. Gripe, gripe, gripe, complain, complain, complain. The fruit of complaining is attracting more things into your life to complain about and undoubtedly attracting more people into your life who want to complain right along with you. Complainers can't possibly attract positive, faith filled, strong visionary people into their life. There is no room for them and besides they would not stay. One day, she made a conscious decision to stop wasting her life. God had tremendous plans for her. He was looking to bless her. But you can't receive blessing when you aren't open minded enough to receive them. Possibility thinking, not reality thinking creates an open flow for the Holy Spirit to work. Grumpy thinking closed you off from God's greatest plans for your life. As Joyce says...You can wait on the Lord all you want, but when your mind is surly, you have shut him out.

"Impossible is a big word tossed around by small men who are living the life they have been given rather than discovering the power that they have to change it."

2. **IT IS NOT THE SIZE OF THE GOAL, IT IS THE DEPTH OF YOUR COMMITMENT.**

MAKING THE COMMITMENT IN YOUR SOUL. Commitment is when you say, "It doesn't matter what it looks like. I am not going to give up on this plan. Doesn't matter what ever else happens in my life. I will still rise to the occasion." Bill Hybels says that it is a leaders job to lead regardless of what is going on in someone's personal life. He is in the pulpit every single Sunday. He doesn't have the luxury to not do it because He doesn't feel like it. The blessing that comes from "just doing it" is when he is graced with a confirmation an answer or a direction to help him with something that is non-related to his message. When we give and serve, we are given back. God will deliver us to another level of understanding and insight. So keep giving. There is great medicine in that. So be willing to keep doing…as long as it takes…to see great rewards!!! Because when the momentum begins…it literally starts to gush…it is always MORE than worth the work require to open those flood gates. So continue to be steadfast. Don't let up on the pressure! Don't let up on the plan. Don't stop right before you turn the corner. See it through.
See YOU through!!! Make this your month. Your year. Your time. That is truly a decision that YOU make.

3. **YOU CAN’T QUIT ON A VISION AND A DREAM TO SERVE A LESSER ENDEAVOR.** Quitting on your plan when the going gets tough, means that you are giving up on your dream. According to Bruce Wilkinson, “Living a life without a dream is barely living at all.” There is no fun in floundering and no excitement and exhilaration in going through the motions. Plan Big, Dream Big, Think Big and then deliver the Goods. Work it! Do it! Make it Happen! Bill Hybels says that when the going has gotten tough, he reminded himself that what he was seeing currently in his life is only a snapshot of his present situation and that God has a filmstrip of his whole life. If he will just keep going he will at some point be living His finest hour...actually many finest hours. People who give up don’t ever experience their finest hours only the frustrations. Because where ever else they go in their life they are taking themselves with them. So the question is? Do you want to live with yourself as a conqueror? The you that you became upon staying steadfast to the commitment. Or the person that you didn’t quite become...because you stopped before you got there.

4. **YOU NEED TO BE FULLY PERSUADED IN KNOWING THAT GOD HAS THE BEST IN STORE FOR YOU.**
Positive Expectancy is Magic!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! It is absolutely a necessary ingredient in our personal walks of faith. T.D. Jakes says that internal insecurities can keep you from being the leader that God has designed for you to be. Because insecurity is not from Him.

Pregnant women have baby showers. They fix up the nursery. They get the diapers, bottles and car seats all in preparation for the baby that they are expecting. That is positive expectancy! When you are expecting someone for dinner, you don’t wait for them to arrive before you set the table and begin cooking. You prepare for their arrival. Are you in preparation for what it is that you are expecting? Expect God for miracles, for floodgates to open, for connections to happen, for ambitious women to come into your life. Expect and prepare...Expect and prepare! Something Great, Amazing and Tremendous is going to happen to you today!! Say it! Say it out LOUD! Shout it! Dance on your desk, around your office in your kitchen...because something phenomenal is going to happen to you today. When people say...everyday is just more of the same. You say, I hope so!!! Because my kind of same is OURSTANDINGLY MAGNIFICENT!!!!

When you BELIEVE IT, you will see it and live it and then YOU SHALL HAVE IT.