

The Lame Can Still Limp, Step Out

I told a young friend, who works by the hour making barely enough to live on, that she should consider going to college to pursue the work she truly wanted. She has a fine, analytical mind and is a good debater. I think she'd make a fine lawyer. I advised her to see a councilor, get a loan, and go for it. Or as Yogi Berra once put it, "When you come to the fork in the road, take it."

She had been working her present job for several years hoping to to accumulate enough money to afford college, but at 26 she had already lost much precious time.

What she and countless others including myself is up against is the spirit of procrastination, which always whispers, "do it later." And I think that spirit is one of Satan's cohorts. One of Solomon's proverbs goes. "He who observes the clouds, will never sow." Of course that was back when sowing was done by hand. Today, the sharp farmers really must heed the weatherman's forecast.

Joyce Meyer did a whole book on the subject, and she titled it, "Do It Afraid." The Enemy delights in filling our minds with doubts and fears. But if you've been given a dream to say, teach, the longer you put it off, the more teaching time you're losing.

Frankly, given today's uncertain world, who can't blame anyone for hesitation? The digital age has changed things so that many are going to college and graduating only to find that the discipline they had studied for has evaporated. I think of the beautiful NDSCS library now standing largely idle.

Many fine librarians, like Mary Kroshus, put in whole careers there, and I used to love to sit among the books, even the dusty musty ones, sensing the company of great minds, or even just browse the periodicals to learn what's new. Now cell phones offer most info at the click of a button.

That's a scary meditation; so it is vital for Christians to get to know the Holy Spirit, the "still small voice," that whispers directions. I've spent enough time trying to hear that voice that I'm finally getting help now and then in finding lost items or making tough decisions. I recently asked the Spirit where I left a pair of glasses. And as I was going to sleep, the picture came into my mind of those glasses and their exact location. Sure enough, there they were. We have to learn to "be still" and "wait upon the Lord." for the answer we've asked Him for. That's assuming you've asked the Holy Spirit into your heart. Spending time in the Word or listening to great teachers, or just tarrying quietly, singing a hymn of invocation could bring a revelation than could save your life.

Jacob, in Genesis, had a wrestling match with an angel that left him crippled, and he asked God what he was supposed to do. And God told him, "Limp!" (bad Henny Youngman joke), But in his halting journey through life, Jacob fathered 12 sons, each leading one of the 12 tribes of *Israel*, his new name given him by God. Weather one does it afraid or with a limp, stepping out in faith is a sure way to please God.

Gene Pinkney 24-04-18- for the Daily News