

Pastor George Morrison – November 6th, 2008

Kingdom Business Alliance, Inc

Winston Churchill is known to have said: “You can measure a man by the size of the thing that discourages him.”

8 Things To Consider as you run your business...

ANCHOR TEXT: Habakkuk 2:1-4 (NIV)

1 I will stand at my watch
and station myself on the ramparts;
I will look to see what he will say to me,
and what answer I am to give to this complaint.

2 Then the LORD replied:
“Write down the revelation
and make it plain on tablets
so that a herald may run with it.

3 For the revelation awaits an appointed time;
it speaks of the end
and will not prove false.
Though it linger, wait for it;
it will certainly come and will not delay.

4 “See, he is puffed up;
his desires are not upright—
but the righteous will live by his faith

[humorous aside from Ben: Do you know why they call them the minor profits? Because you have to dig for them.]

1. Keep the Vision Alive

- Easy to do when things are going well.
- Write out short term (less than 6 months to 12 months), mid-term (2 years to 3 years) and long term goals (5 years to 10 years).
- Change is constant so be prepared to change.

- Where is your focus, is it on the road ahead so you're using the rear view mirror to see behind you, or are you giving the road behind your full focus instead? How do you move ahead if you're looking backwards?

Genesis 13:8-17 (New International Version)

8 So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herdsmen and mine, for we are brothers. 9 Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."

10 Lot looked up and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan was well watered, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, toward Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) 11 So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: 12 Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. 13 Now the men of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD.

14 The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. 15 All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring ^[a] forever. 16 I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. 17 Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you."

- Abram and Lot were so profitable that they had to separate. Their concerns, their businesses, were so intermingled that it was causing issues.
- Vision is about looking forward from where you are (Abram in vs 14-15).
- Vision is NOT a nostalgia kick on the past.
- Look UP and walk TOWARDS what God has called you to.

2. Write It Down

- There is something critically important about what happens between the head (the brain) and the hands & feet.
- You need to physically move out towards what God has called you to do.
- There is something intrinsically important about the practice and the discipline of writing; it exposes your heart.

3. Keep it for a Time

- There is an appointed time
- Ecclesiastes 1:3 "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven..."

- It may take some time for the realization of what you've written
- Charles Blair shared a story about him. He thought that he was a man who could do no wrong, and he discovered that his vision failed. "Why? My vision was good, but the timing was all wrong..."

4. Face the Facts

- Be realistic
- You can't ignore them, they are what they are
- It's part of counting the cost
- We've to deal with today's obstacles in order to facilitate tomorrow's advances

5. Re-Set Expectations

- In accordance with reality
- It's not just dealing with the reality of what's happening out there
- It's NOT giving up the vision.
- It's about adjusting my expectations about whatever I'm facing; business, family, and so on

6. Maximize the Moment

- You should help others deal with reality; enable them to do it
- From a negative perspective, perhaps you need adjust down your goals, or back them off a bit
- From a positive perspective, we are still people of faith; more capable of maximizing the moment because of our faith
- Regardless of our circumstances, we ARE people of faith and that brings us both HOPE and WISDOM

7. Walk in Bold Obedience

- Walk in what you know to be the truth
- It is the power of simplicity - STEP OUT
- In walking through the principles of what we know to be true - watch what happens
- Just obey... really it's that simple... We need to do what we say. What we say, we do...

8. Exemplary Sacrifice

- We never can get away from the concept and the principle of sacrifice in the Christian walk
- It's not there in what the world does and they don't understand it
- Something dies in sacrifice - it's unavoidable
- We give more of _____, to our job, to our family, to our God, of our time... etc... and why?
- We are called to give it up - to seemingly throw it away.
- Remember Jim Elliot, Missionary to the Auca Indians... life and death verse: "He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

CONCLUSION:

GOD IS SOVEREIGN!

He still is and he earnestly desires our attention...

- Our God is a jealous God and it's absolutely appropriate
- Your gifts and giftedness are for the furtherance of His kingdom
- We are called to excellent stewardship: You know who owns it all!
- And what a relief that is... isn't it? Do you know why?
- Because it relieves us of the need and the responsibility to perform
- We no longer need to worry.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: If our God is the sovereign ruler of all, and he owns it all, then our simple call is to one of profound sacrifice in obedience to the call which he has made upon our lives. The simplicity of simply walking out that obedience in bold humility means that we place the results in his all encompassing totally competent hands.