



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 3, 2021

I ENJOY JOGGING AND THERE ARE TIMES WHERE I'M RUNNING BACK FROM THE GYM AND IT IS STILL RUSH HOUR. HERE LATELY THE CHAOS HAS BEEN EVEN MORE BECAUSE OF THE ROAD CLOSURES ON 70 AND 65. THIS PAST WEEK I WAS NOT FAR FROM HOME, ACTUALLY I WAS RUNNING PARALLEL WITH STEAK & SHAKE ALONG WASHINGTON STREET, MINDING MY OWN BUSINESS; JUST TRYING NOT TO GET HIT.

I WAS STARING AT THE TRAFFIC WHOSE LIGHT HAD JUST TURNED GREEN AND WAS HEADED IN MY DIRECTION. LEADING THE TRAIN CARS BEFORE ME WAS A BIG 18-WHEELER. THERE IS NO SIDEWALK ALONG THIS SMALL SECTION OF WASHINGTON ST, SO LIKE MANY TIMES BEFORE I HAD TO JUMP UP ONTO THE GRASS. I HAVE RUN THROUGH THIS GRASS MANY TIMES AND I KNOW THAT THERE ARE MANY POTHOLES AND DIVOTS THAT ARE COVERED BY UN CUT GRASS THAT YOU HAVE TO WATCH OUT FOR IF YOU VALUE YOUR ANKLES.

WHILE I WAS TRYING NOT TO GET HIT BY THE ONSLAUGHT OF CARS HEADING IN MY DIRECTION AND TRYING NOT TO ROLE MY ANKLES IN THE UPHEAVAL OF UNCARED-FOR GROUND, I WAS AMBUSHED BY A CONSTRUCTION SIGN. I DID NOT RUN STRAIGHT INTO IT, BUT I DID HIT IT HARD ENOUGH THAT I HAD TO READJUST MY BODY'S GENERAL DIRECTION.

ONE CAR DID TAKE THE TIME TO HONK THEIR HORN AT ME TO LET ME KNOW THEY SAW THE WHOLE THING HAPPEN, AND IT WAS PROBABLY THE HIGHLIGHT OF THEIR DAY. THERE IS NOTHING MORE SATISFYING THAN WAITING IN A BRUTALLY LONG RED-LIGHT LINE, SLOWLY GETTING AGITATED, AND ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU SEE A JOGGER WHO IS FREE THE OF CONFINES OF TRAFFIC JUST SIMPLY RUN INTO A SIGN AND ALMOST FALL DOWN.

IN MY DEFENSE THOUGH, THE SIGN HAS ONLY BEEN THERE FOR TWO MONTHS, AND ITS HUNTER-ORANGE COLOR ALLOWED IT TO BLEND IN PERFECTLY TO THE BACKDROP OF GREY BUILDINGS AND BLUE SKY.

PROVERBS 4:25-27

25 LET YOUR EYES LOOK DIRECTLY AHEAD AND LET YOUR GAZE BE FIXED STRAIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU.

26 WATCH THE PATH OF YOUR FEET, AND ALL YOUR WAYS WILL BE ESTABLISHED.

27 DO NOT TURN TO THE RIGHT OR TO THE LEFT; TURN YOUR FOOT FROM EVIL.

I WAS LOOKING AHEAD OF ME A I NOTICED THE TRAFFIC – HENCE, I JUMPED INTO THE GRASS.

I WAS AWARE OF THE PATH MY FEET WHERE ON – HENCE, I WAS MINDFUL OF EACH STEP.

I DID NOT PAY ATTENTION THAT BY AVOIDING THE TRAFFIC, MY LINE OF SIGHT CHANGED, AND I KEPT MY EYES DOWN TO WHAT WAS A NEW HINDERANCE IN MY PATH.

KEEPING OUR EYES ON GOD (PS 123:2), KEEPING EYES ON JESUS (HEB 12:2), AND ALLOWING THE SPIRIT TO GUIDE YOU (LUKE 4:1) LIKE JESUS DID IN THE WILDERNESS, IS NOT SOMETHING WE CAN PICK AND CHOOSE WHEN IT HAPPENS. IT IS A MOMENT-BY-MOMENT CONSCIOUS ACTIVITY THAT DEVELOPS OUR WAY OF LIFE. IT ALLOWS US TO FOCUS ON HIM AND SEE CLEARLY HIS WILL BEYOND OUR OWN.

CHOOSING ONLY WHEN YOU WANT TO BE FOCUSED YOU WILL ALWAYS MISS THE BIG ORANGE SIGN.

I AM SOMEONE WHO ENJOYS SPORTS AND YOU OFTEN HEAR THE MOST GRUELING PART OF ANY SPORT IS NOT THE TOLL THAT IT TAKE ON THE BODY (WHICH IT DOES), BUT IT IS THE MENTAL DETERMINATION TO STAY FOCUSED UNTIL THE END; PLAY AFTER PLAY, PITCH AFTER PITCH, TURN AFTER TURN, ETC..

SUCH IS LIFE – WE ARE TO STAY FOCUSED IF WE TRULY WANT TO DODGE EVERY HINDERANCE SATAN PUTS IN OUR WAY AND COMPLETELY FOLLOW JESUS.

PASTOR ANDY