

may 20

i was watching wheel of fortune last night. i know, i have become that little old lady with her favorite shows. if you don't know the show i will not bother to explain it as it is unimportant. you see, there was this one contestant that got off to a bad start. two different times she called a letter that had already been called, etc. in appraising her situation, you would think that she was not going to fair well. but as the game progressed, she went on to win and go to the bonus round to win thousands of dollars more.

the point is, she did not start out well but she ended well. that's what counts in our walk with the Lord; that we end well. the apostle paul said, "forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." phil 3:13-14

i love the way this scripture is translated in the classic amplified bible. "o Lord, our God, other masters besides You have ruled over us, but we will acknowledge and mention Your name only. they [the former tyrant masters] are dead, they shall not live and reappear; they are powerless ghosts, they shall not rise and come back." isa 26:13-14

i don't know if you have had a trial of your faith yet if not, it may well be coming so be as prepared as you can for it. "wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: that the trial of your faith,

being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" 1 pet 1:6-7

the trial of our faith is precious to God. it can either draw us closer to Him or cause us to rebel in anger. it can be precious to us if we let it be. let it be precious to you. let God have His good and perfect work. "but He knows the way that i take; when He has tested me, i shall come forth as gold." job 23:10 job knew something about being tested. he lost it all but he kept his faith in God. "and after my skin is destroyed, this i know, that in my flesh i shall see God." job 19:26

there is a friend in nigeria that i have recently come into contact with again. nigeria is a country that has known persecution. this is what my friend said: "every saturday and sunday we always go out to evangelize and preach the gospel, share some food items to the poor, widows and orphans. it is our duty to give to the needy, God cherish a cheerful giver." ifeanyi ately (son of the late emeka ately)

he speaks of duty. do you think you have a "duty" to God? duty also includes a definition of respect, reverence, and yes, obligation. do you respect God? do you have an obligation to fulfill? i don't know how you feel. i feel i have an obligation that can never be fulfilled but that won't keep me from trying. "and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." mic 6:8

and i shall never cease to extol the name and glories of our marvelous God. i think i have said this before but it bears repeating. every since i heard a preacher say this it has stuck with me. "i will finish well because i am determined to finish well." how determined are you? will you walk through trials and temptations and remain faithful to your God? will you finish well? you may not be off to a good start but it is the finish that counts.

"do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? run in such a way that you may obtain it." 1 cor 9:24