

Holy Play

A South Carolina Lutheran Via de Cristo Publication

“Writers Block!” Have you ever had this? For the past few days, and even in the middle of the night, I have been “Groaning in Prayer” to seek what direction this message to you should be. With no sense of clarity, today I went thru my file of quotes and there it was...placed in front of me. Two meaningful quotes I copied years ago from “Wisdom for the Ways” authored by Charles Swindoll.

With the Coed # 12 weekend a few days away and reflecting on the community and Secretariat Committees’ past year’s positive growth and course corrections, I came across what you see below and the eyes of my heart opened. I hope these words do the same for you.

ACCOUNTABLE TO EACH OTHER Wisdom for the Ways Charles Swindoll

People who are accountable usually have four (4) qualities:

Vulnerability—capable of being wounded, shown to be wrong, even admitting it before being confronted.

Teachability—a willingness to learn, being quick to hear and respond to reproof, being open to counsel.

Availability—accessible, touchable, able to be interrupted.

Honesty—committed to the truth regardless how much it hurts, a willingness to admit the truth no matter how difficult or humiliating the admission may be. Hating all that is phony or false.

That’s a tough list...Today we need others to hold us accountable. Sometimes we may simply need a sounding board to help keep us on target. Just remember—not one of us is an island. We need one another.

Living above the Level of Mediocrity

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CHOOSE JOY!

You will go out with joy and be led forth with peace...Isaiah 55:12

How do we live with worry and stress and fear? How do we withstand these joy stealers?...

Let me be downright practical and tell you what to do. First, I remind myself early in the morning and on several occasions during the day, "God, You are at work, and You are in control. And, Lord God, You know this is happening. You were there at the beginning, and You will bring everything that occurs to a conclusion that results in your greater glory in the end." And then? Then (and only then!) I relax. From that point on, it really doesn't matter all that much what happens. It's in God's hands...

The pressure on you may be intense. A half-dozen joy stealers may be waiting outside your door, ready to pounce at the first opportunity. However, nothing can rob you of your hold on grace, your claim to peace, or your confidence in God without your permission. Choose joy. Never release your grip!

Laugh Again. Wisdom for the Way. Charles Swindoll.

Our 4th Day reunion groups across the state need revitalization. Over time, a joy stealer, has for many of us...me included watered this special time with our brothers and sisters down into almost nonexistence.

One week from now, twenty five (25) new members of the community will be looking to each of us for a listening ear, a new direction, and wisdom we can share from our own mistakes. How will you respond to them? To other members of the community? To all people in your sphere of influence? Be accountable to each other and especially to yourself. And do so with genuine grace and forgiveness!!!

Let us all pray first, listen carefully to that still small and almost inaudible voice of the Holy Spirit for direction...then react to what your heart is telling you to step out to do. Then step out and do it...choosing joy. Never release your grip!!!

Peace...Gus Martschink

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Gus Martschink: Editor

336-202-9047

gusmartschink@hotmail.com