

## Daily Devotional, December 14, 2020 One Step at a Time

***Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9 (NIV)***

Everything in life begins with a step, but often times we lose track of the steps we have taken to get to a certain point, and even that very first step that brought us to where we are today. Progress happens to work this way. Rev. Robert H. Schuller once said, "You can know how many seeds are in an apple, but you can't know how many apples are in a seed." If you want to grow a tree you have to plant the seed, it's quite simple. But remember that the tree won't begin to grow until it is in season. Maybe the solution to a person's problems lie in what they can appreciate. If seeds can turn into trees, caterpillars into butterflies, and dreams into whole civilizations, then imagine what you and I could do given patience and the proper amount of time.

In our impatience, we often worry that we may not be enough; not rich enough, smart enough, motivated enough, attractive enough, and anything else we use to measure our worth or the worth of others. What makes the tree more important than the seed? The rock at the very top of the mountain could not reach its peak if not for the rocks that make up the base. Do not grow anxious with slow, small starts, at feeling as if though you are stuck in the mud, and not knowing what to do to pull free and move forward. The air tastes so much sweeter at the top of the mountain when you have to climb to get there.

What if we stopped judging ourselves and measuring our success against others? Things might seem to slow down a bit, but my guess is that with confidence and trust in God's guidance, they will speed up. Maybe we would stop comparing ourselves to *each other*. How would we know we were ever failing if we had no standard to constantly compare ourselves to? There is nothing wrong with having desires, but we should never feel less worthy over what we don't have. If we do that, then we forget that life is a process. You see, what makes the air on top of the mountain taste so sweet is every step that you took to get there-especially when they are unhindered by worries of who got there first. Just getting there is its own reward.

***PRAYER: God, thank you for your many gifts that you have blessed me with. Over and over again, you show me something different, another possibility, and another way to serve you and to succeed. Help me to climb my mountains, to press on to their peaks. Help me to accomplish my dreams and even more. Lord, I want to please you by striving after what you want and what you want me to have and to achieve. Thank you for the direction you have given me. In Christ's name I pray, Amen.***