

Wednesday Devotional 09/16/26

Scripture: Hebrews 11: 11 – 16

Winning....Long Term By Carole Mayhall

I find myself little different than the impatient "instant" world around me. Our world wants it – and often has it – now. Instant credit cards, instant meals, instant entertainment.

But as I reflect, I don't see "instant" as one of God's goals. Long-term gains, in God's economy, beat instant every time. The examples God gives us of Biblical heroes – Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham – looked at things in a way we seldom do. Of course they wanted to see God's promises fulfilled quickly, but somehow they also kept firmly in mind the "long-term" aspect of the promises as well.

The fulfillment of the short-term promises encourage them: Abel's sacrifice was accepted; Enoch was translated to heaven; Noah survived the flood and experienced rebuilding the land; Abraham had Isaac and lived to see him reproduce.

But the stability of their lives was firmly secured by their future focus, their eternal perspective. They were "still living by faith" (in the long-term promises) when they died (v. 13).

I'm grateful that God usually doesn't make me wait too long to experience what he says he will do. I'm sure he is aware of my impatience! But I am thinking more these days of promises for the future, which are so much bigger.

I need balance and wisdom between the here and now and the forever future, between praying for the fulfillment of short-term promises and keeping my heart, thoughts, and desires rooted in God's long-term promises.

Here I see the short term only. But when the long-term promises are a reality instead of a hope, I'm confident that the short-term ones, which give my life joy now, will fade into insignificance.