



and that's... **The Gospel Truth!!** with Pat Corn

a brief message of encouragement to make your day just a little bit brighter

I have always loved the worship chorus entitled "Press On". The lyrics are inspiring.

"In Jesus' name we press on
In Jesus' name we press on
Dear Lord with the prize
Clear before our eyes
We'll have the strength to press on"

The following story came to me last week and I knew immediately that I had to share it with you.

"A man was sleeping at night in his cabin, when suddenly his room filled with light, and God appeared.

The Lord told the man he had work for him to do, and showed him a large rock in front of his cabin. The Lord explained that the man was to push against the rock with all his might every day.

So, this the man did, day after day. For many years he toiled from sun up to sun down, his shoulders set squarely against the cold, massive surface of the unmoving rock, pushing with all of his might.

Each night the man returned to his cabin sore and worn out, feeling that his day had been spent in vain.

Since the man was showing discouragement, the adversary (Satan himself) decided to enter the picture by placing thoughts into the weary mind: "You have been pushing against that rock for a long time, and it hasn't moved."

Thus, he gave the man the impression that the task was impossible and that he was a failure. These thoughts discouraged and disheartened the man. Satan said, "Why kill yourself over this? Just put in your time, giving just the minimum effort; and that will be good enough."

That's what the weary man planned to do, but decided to make it a matter of prayer and to take his troubled thoughts to the Lord.

"Lord," he said, "I have labored long and hard in your service, putting all my strength to do that which you have asked. Yet, after all this time, I have not even budged that rock by half a millimeter. What is wrong? Why am I failing?"

The Lord responded compassionately, "When I asked you to serve Me, and you accepted, I told you that your task was to push against the rock with all your strength, which you have done. Never once did I mention to you that I expected you to move it... Your task was to push. And now you come to Me with your strength spent, thinking that you have failed.

But, is this really so? Look at yourself. Your arms are strong and muscled, your back is sinewy and brown; your hands are callused from constant pressure, your legs have become massive and hard. Through opposition you have grown much, and your abilities now surpass that which you used to have. True, you haven't moved the rock. But your calling was to be obedient and to push and to exercise your faith and

trust in My wisdom. That you have done, and now I will move the rock."

Obedience to God's request is the spiritual dynamic in this story. Sometimes we don't see the "prize clear before our eyes" but God's plan is still being fulfilled. The Lord will carry the plan to His fulfillment if we are obedient. Here is what He says in the 26th chapter of Leviticus about what He will do in life of the obedient.

"If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands, I will send you rain in its season, and the ground will yield its crops and the trees of the field their fruit. Your threshing will continue until grape harvest and the grape harvest will continue until planting, and you will eat all the food you want and live in safety in your land.

"I will grant peace in the land, and you will lie down and no one will make you afraid. I will remove savage beasts from the land, and the sword will not pass through your country. You will pursue your enemies, and they will fall by the sword before you. Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall by the sword before you."

"I will look on you with favor and make you fruitful and increase your numbers, and I will keep my covenant with you. You will still be eating last year's harvest when you will have to move it out to make room for the new. I will put my dwelling place among you, and I will not abhor you. I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people. I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt so that you would no longer be slaves to the Egyptians; I broke the bars of your yoke and enabled you to walk with heads held high."

Each month, in this country, millions of dollars are spent just encounter resistance...at the health club. Why? The goal is to become stronger. God has placed stones in your life that, if you will be obedient and push daily, will strengthen you physically, mentally, and most importantly, spiritually. That's why He says in James, chapter one

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

You push!!...God rolls!!...Now THAT'S Rock and Roll! He's really good at rolling stones away, you know!! Press on!

And that's....The Gospel Truth!!

Your comments or questions are welcomed
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