

5th January 2017

When Your Plans Are Hindered

*Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.—
(1Thes 2:18, KJV)*

Have you ever pursued something you believed was God's will, yet **obstacles** kept you from **doing** what you **thought** you were **supposed** to do? (*like today- we should be in church -but circumstances leave us little choice but to stay off of the road*) The **apostle Paul** felt this way.

We All Face Many Obstacles on a Daily Basis

Some from

- **Satan**
- **Others**
- **Life**
- **Our Own Making**

Paul used the Greek word *egkopto* for the word **hindered**. It was an **old word**, used to describe a **road** so **deteriorated** and **broken up** that it was **impassable**. It was also **used** in **Greek times** to **portray** a runner **cutting in** or **elbowing out** of the way someone **running** a race. The **primary** idea of the word "**hindered**" is that of an **impasse** so **severe** that it **prohibits** you from **going** where you **need** to **go** or someone who **unkindly elbows** you **off course** in your **spiritual race**.

Paul was Actually Saying: Satan...

- **created** an **impasse** that **kept me** from **coming** to see you.
- **cut in on me** and **prohibited** me from **visiting** you, as I desired.
- **tried** to **elbow me out** of the way to **keep me** from **coming** to see you.

We All know what it is like to be hindered while doing the will of God. Everything does not always go smoothly, we have a hard time. God never promised us an easy life. There will be obstacles. Paul faced them, and you will too. So how do you overcome these obstacles? Let me give you a few things you must do in order to overcome these hindrances.

1. Recognize that the enemy stopped you, not God.

II Tim 2:9 -NIV - *I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not **chained** (Hindered)*

- **He can Dispute Your Word -but Not God's from You**
- **He can Spoil Your Plans – but Not God's for You**
- **Isa 55:11-** *So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

- **NLT**- It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.

This Weather actually took us by surprise -it even took the weather service by surprise because even with all that complicated weather forecasting – it did not go as projected.

But this day DID NOT SURPRISE God! -He knew the Pulpit today would not be at ECC but here in my kitchen -He knew that your pew would not be in ECC today but wherever you are watching this video feed...

- **Even if you are feeling hindered today...**
- **Say This..... God's Got This !!!!e**
- **He is Preparing a Way!**

1st - Recognize that the enemy stopped you, not God.

2. Acknowledge that the setback is only temporary.

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. (2 Cor 4:17)

The **hindrance** you have faced is only **momentary**. That means **temporary**. It **won't last forever**. At first you might think that you will never get back in the race, but you will.

Obstacles will eventually cease -**Satan's attacks** will cease/ you will see clearly how to move forward.

2. Rem the Sun WILL Come out again! -God will provide a way to fulfill God's plan.

- *Psa 30:5 -Weeping endures for a night but joy cometh in the morning*

Tony Campolo preached a fabulous sermon entitled: *Its Friday, but Sunday's a coming!* Don't you know that Satan thought he defeated Christ? But little did he know that Sunday was coming. You might be facing Friday, but Sunday's coming! The victory is near you! Are you hindered by..

- **Sickness? It's only Friday, Sunday's a coming!**
- **Finances? It's only Friday, Sunday's a coming!**
- **Family Problems? It's only Friday, Sunday's a coming!**
- **Whatever is hindering you – Satan -Others -Life -Our Own Making**

It's only Friday, Sunday's a coming!

One Sunday morning at a small southern church, the new pastor called on one of his older deacons to lead in the opening prayer. The deacon stood up, bowed his head and said, "Lord, I hate buttermilk."

The pastor opened one eye and wondered where this was going. The deacon continued, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was totally perplexed. The deacon continued, "Lord, I ain't too crazy about plain flour. But after you mix 'em all together and bake 'em in a hot oven, I just love biscuits."

"Lord help us to realize when life gets hard, when things come up that we don't like, whenever we don't understand what You are doing, that we need to wait and see what You are making. After you get through mixing and baking, it'll probably be something even better than biscuits. Amen.

Romans 8:28

~And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.