

Reflections with Sharon

Little by little

Read Deuteronomy 7:17-26

Have you ever pondered why it so often happens that when we most want to see things move forward, that's when for some unfathomable reason, things seem to happen little by little; doors open little by little; needs are met little by little; provision comes little by little; plans fall into place little by little; relationships are established little by little; healing occurs little by little; restoration takes place little by little; friendships blossom little by little; assets grow little by little; victories are won little by little; a dream becomes reality little by little.

But little by little is a concept that is yet foreign to the impatient nature within us! We like to have now moments; we relish explosive growth; we want immediate results. We don't want the trickle, we want a downpour! And when we find ourselves surrounded by circumstances over which we have no control, and in response to our cry for action, things move in slow motion instead, that's when we discover how futile or meaningful were the hypothetical games we liked to play.

Can we ever really know what's in our hearts without being put through the discipline of having to experience life from the sidelines? We want to do; we want to go; we want to move. There's a big dream in our heart that demands expression, but it's as if we have been sentenced to a season of stillness with so little activity. What is God up to? Why can't He hurry get things moving for us? Doesn't He know our hearts and how much we want to do for Him? Doesn't He know He can trust us to remain faithful and true?

One thing I've come to realize over the years is that of our innate tendency to so often ask the wrong question, because maybe the question we really should be asking when our plans run into a roadblock is, "Do I really know what's in my heart?"

I believe God knows us through and through, inside and out, and nothing we will ever do can ever take Him by surprise. But so often He places challenges in our path to test us and to give us a chance to see what's in our hearts. It's during those times that we prove the authenticity of our faith and discover how much we really know Him.

That's when we learn how big and all-sufficient God is and how small and needy we truly are and that every day is a gift from God. And it dawns on us that only a God who is totally wise would give us our conquests little by little lest we get too proud and fall, or become overwhelmed by the magnitude of what we find ourselves up against and lose heart, or be overrun by our enemies and give up. Thank God for little by little!