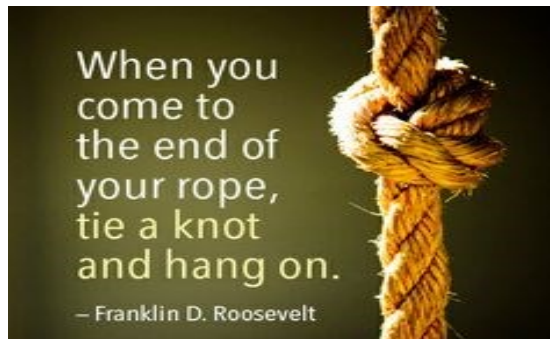


Who's In Charge?

"You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule."

Matthew 5:3 THE MESSAGE

Franklin Roosevelt had many tough times. Roosevelt had polio as an adult and served the USA as President during World War II. The following quote may have been at one of those times,

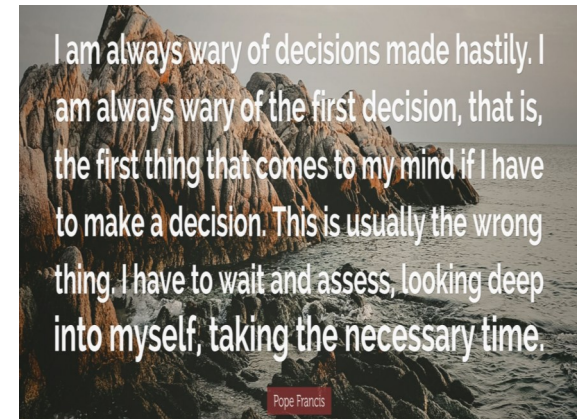
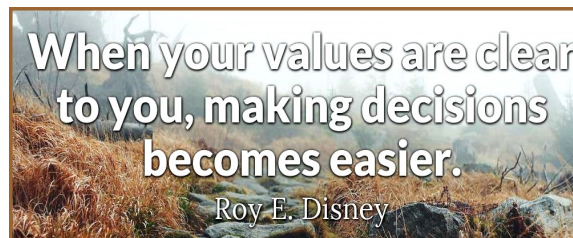


but we all have rough times. Sometimes when we get to the end of the rope in a particular situation we are tempted to give up. Sometimes that may be the right decision, but it could also be the wrong one. If everything is easy, nothing would have any value. There are many times in our lives when we think we are at the end of a rope. We are faced with many decisions in life. Some of them are big and some are common, small every day

decisions. Each one requires us to make a decision. Do we hang on or do we let go. Sometimes, we can hold on by remembering that we can take things one step at a time. Most importantly, we know that God is with us through each decision, regardless of the size. Sometimes the best decision may be to let go. That is a decision each of us must make.

Many times after that I have realized that I can't do it. I don't have that capability whether as a parent, a teacher, or just an individual. But, when we give our problems to God, He provides. I remember a calligraphy I read once. It said *"I'll put it in God's hands tonight, and tomorrow I'll take it back and settle it."* I think that is true of us so many times, and many we don't even realize. We are so proud. Yet, we are poor in spirit until we get to the end of the rope, and realize that God has been there all the time.

So often, we don't stop to realize that God is with us. He is with us everywhere whether or not we want him to be. He sees our joys, our sorrows, our achievements, and our failures. We are all important to him. He carries us even when we don't stop to realize he is there.



But, who's in charge? We could walk into a business and ask that question and get several different responses. Some will point to the one that owns or is president of the business. Sometimes, we hear, *"No one is in charge. They are out for the day."* That is sometimes a disappointing answer if we want to talk with someone with authority.

Sometimes we see people point to different people that may be in charge because none of them want to have the responsibility.

We are "sort of" in charge of our lives. We can make decisions about certain things. Sometimes we make good decisions, sometimes we make bad decisions. Regardless of the decisions we make, we are not really in charge. Just imagine how messed up everything could be if we could control the rain. Some would want rain so their crops could grow. Some would not want rain because they wanted to go to the beach or play a ball game.

One time I was challenged to think how a plant knows which elements to take from the soil. It humbled me to think that a plant could make a good decision so it could grow and be healthy and we as humans often make wrong decisions. The blessing of this is that we are not really in charge. Oh, we are in little things. In the most important decision regarding our eternal life, we are in charge as to whether or not we accept the gift of eternal life or turn away and think we can do everything on our own. I am thankful that I have a loving God who knows my weaknesses and is there to remind me that He is in charge every day in every way. Sometimes our values tend to get mixed up with our emotions and personal desires.

"When you can't control what's happening, challenge yourself to control the way you respond to what's happening. That's where your power is!"

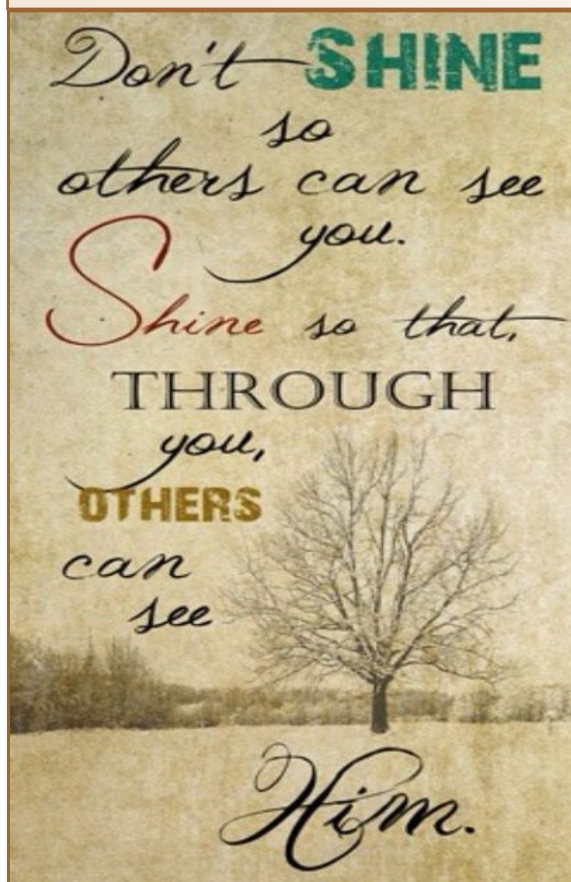
Anonymous

Many of us have heard the beatitude in the quote on the front page in the King James version *"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."* We have a hard time understanding it, but when we read it in the present day as expressed by Peterson we then realize that we are truly blessed because the Kingdom of Heaven is ours for the asking. That is a wonderful promise. Do we really want to be in charge? As was said in the musical *Oliver*, after Fagin has thought of all the

things that could happen - *"I think I'd better think it out again."* The choice is ours.

"To make our way, we must have firm resolve, persistence, tenacity. We must gear ourselves to work hard all the way. We can never let up."

Ralph Bunche



"Have courage for the great sorrows of life and patience for the small ones; and when you have laboriously accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace."

Victor Hugo

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help us keep our spirits high with You at the helm, and help us to show others that Spirit of You that You have given us as we face daily life, and then realize that with You all things are possible, but without You we are helpless and flounder trying to do it all ourselves. Please, dear Lord, be with us this day and every day. Amen.

1. How far do we need to go before we realize we can't handle it alone?
2. How can God become more important in our life when we have trials?
3. Why does God carry us? How can we show our appreciation?
4. How does your view of God change when you're at the end of your rope?

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"When I'm worried, it's usually because I'm trying to do everything myself. When I'm at peace, it's usually because I remember that God is in control."

DaveWillis.org