

Expectations of self

I tend to place expectations on myself that are beyond reach. This can work to the good if I allow them to pull me onward towards a life of service and self denial. But, and it is a big BUT, those same expectations I set on myself can lead to total discouragement when I fail to meet them.

Have you ever decided to diet? You feel really good for a few weeks when you get on the scale and see the pounds coming off, but then comes the day that instead of losing a few pounds, you gain! You become so discouraged that you give up and give in.

In my life it gets worse than a diet. I am surrounded by men who are hurting, addicted, and lost, without hope and glorifying that old behavior, forgetting all the pain that running a muck brought. There are few who glory in righteousness and those that do are often just as wounded as the others. I get so discouraged by my ungracious thought life that I give up and join the world in hucking it up. The next thing you know my conversation is no different than the worlds. Then my stewardship goes out the window, then a bit of stretching the truth becomes acceptable.

The Word tells us "that there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, who walk according to the Spirit and not after the flesh". (Rm. 8:1 NIV) It is time that we start to rejoice in the victories we have in this life instead of allowing the devil to condemn us for the failures.

So today I will be careful of my actions and rejoice when I don't blow that. when I think a wrong thought I will take comfort in right actions. I lay claim to victory, not defeat! Join me in this and be blessed.