

"And Solomon did evil in the Sight of the LORD, And Went Not Fully After The LORD, as did David his father." 1 Kings 11:6 KJV



With practice and effort, most can hit a target, but it takes full concentration and hours of daily practice to hit the bull's eye with any frequency. A. W. Tozer wrote, "There are those who, while they love the altar and delight in the sacrifice, are yet unable to reconcile themselves to the continued absence of [Holy] Fire...It is a solemn thing, and no small scandal in the Kingdom, to see God's Children starving while actually seated at the Father's Table!" The apostle Paul wrote, "*Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the Prize of The High Calling of God in Christ Jesus. Looking unto Jesus...*" Runners who keep looking back lose the race. "And Jesus Said, 'No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for The Kingdom of God.'" Farmers don't plough straight furrows looking back over their shoulder! Winners "*press toward the mark...forgetting those things which are behind.*" It begs the question, "Are you looking at the other runners?" Solomon fell into idolatry in his later years, because he "*went not fully after the LORD.*" Present pleasure robbed him of Divine desire. Satan dangled women in front of Solomon and 1000 women later he was worshipping Baal! Marriage was a political strategy of the worldly kings of his day to turn enemies into allies. Solomon either doubted God's ability to keep the kingdom or took bad advice, but his wives even included Pharaoh's daughter. "*Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh. Solomon clave unto these in love. And his wives turned away his heart.*" He was "*unequally yoked together with unbelievers.*" Eventually, lust looted his love and desire for God! Proximity to evil is a death blow to faith! "*Abstain from ALL appearance of evil!*" The same will happen to you if you think evil will not affect your Faith. "*Therefore, let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*" When feelings dictate the race, you lose. I've run races from the 200yd. dash to 25mi. marathons and not one ever "felt good." In fact, I remember quite the opposite. There is, however, a point when you push past the initial agony and get your "second wind" and are able to overcome the pain by focusing on the finish line. The finish was always easier than the start. I always sprinted the last 100 yards. Sure, it took everything I had, but to win was worth it! I even collapsed a few times. The longer you take getting your pace, the longer to your "second wind," and the longer agony will plague your running. It required daily practice. I ran 5 miles a day and a 5 minute mile once a week. I did win races, sometimes, but I wouldn't have won any without daily practice. The agony of every race is forgotten at the finish!

Forget those things which are behind,
Pursue those things which are Divine,
Let Holy Truth transform your mind,
And Joy eternal you will find. –CGP

If I do not fully pursue God, I will not fully find or know Him. Solomon's father, King David wrote, "*With my whole heart have I sought Thee: O let me not wander from Thy Commandments. Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.*" What mark are you pressing towards, today, or have you been distracted?

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In ALL thy ways acknowledge Him, and He Shall Direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:5-6 KJV