



STAY ON THE PATH



Karen is the WA President for Baptist women. She is currently working for Willow Creek, USA as an Executive Director for GLS Asia. She has a husband and two children [22 and 19] and has a strong desire to see people live and minister out of a place of health and passion.

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord,
When I feel like quitting,
stop me.
Remind me of your plan.
Keep me walking even
during the hard times until
I begin to see what you
are growing in me.
Give me a faithful heart.
Keep me diligent and
may I embrace the
journey you have for
me ... no matter how
difficult it may seem.
I am the clay, you are the
Potter...mould me along
the way I pray.
Amen

"Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory. We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop **endurance**. And endurance develops **strength of character**, and character strengthens our confident **hope** of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love." **Romans 5:2-5 [NLT]**

Why is it, that when things get tough, we begin thinking of alternate paths to take in life?! WE say things like, "it is too hard", "I've had enough", "I can't do this anymore", yet we are literally only moments away from breakthrough.

I got to that point with our recent renovations. I was tired of the banging and crashing and schedules not being met, rain coming in where it shouldn't have...what if I'd said at that point, "I've had enough. Stop!" The answer: I'd still be living in utter chaos and mess instead of being a week away [I'm hopeful] from a job completed.

For those of you who have had children, you know there is a moment in labour where most of us [except the extremely saintly] say, "That's it. No more! I'm going home". The crazy thing is, it is at this time that we are only moments away from giving birth to a beautiful little boy or girl. Right at the point of breakthrough we are often inclined to pull out, withdraw, run away or give up.

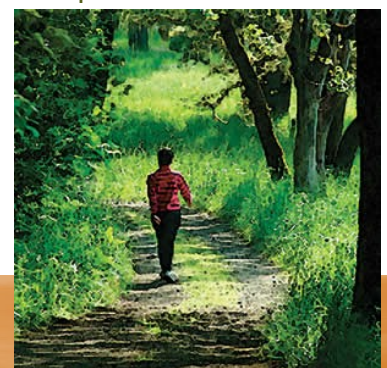
I have had four words going through my mind since the end of May....Stay on the path. I was speaking at a conference in the South West of WA and as a word of encouragement, I sensed God asked me to say these words. As I said them, I realised there was great power in declaring them over our lives. I sensed God was doing as much in me as in anyone else that day.

It's too easy to give up and 'move on'. We can even claim sometimes it is God's leading, when in fact we are just tired or disillusioned, or just downright grumpy. The things we will learn at the point of decision to stay will be things that build into our lives forever.

Of course there are times when God does shift our direction, but if we are considering 'bailing' for any other reason than God's leading, we are short-changing the new birth of amazing things in our lives. Don't let tiredness, disillusionment, relational conflict, boredom, insecurity, or anger de-rail you. Stay on the path God has for you and work those things through. Embrace the stretch of growth and feel what it is like to endure. It will be worth it in the end. Endurance, long-suffering, strength of character, hope...these are all part of someone who stays on the path!

On the path with you,

Karen Wilson
Baptist Women's President WA



LIVING MY DESTINY

By Anne Galambosi



Anne is a wife, mother and counsellor. She has three children aged 18 to 22 and serves Rockingham Baptist Church with her husband Pastor Steven Galambosi. Anne is also a member of the Fresh Team and will be speaking at Fresh Leadership.

It is a privilege for me to be part of the *Fresh* Leadership Team and also to spend time with you today. Living a full life as a wife, mother, pastor's wife, counsellor and student, I believe I am living my destiny. I spent so much of my twenties and early thirties trying to figure out what I was created to do. These days I take a simpler approach. God has shown me that I just need to say yes to Him today instead of getting distracted.

Living 'my destiny' means being conscious, moment-by-moment, to decide yes I will do that or no that is not what I need to give my energy to because it does not line up with my destiny. That means when I want to vacuum through the house and I know my daughter will be leaving in 10 minutes, I spend my time with her because she is part of my destiny to be a mum and, lets face it, the vacuuming will always be there. If I want to watch TV and I have reading to do, I choose reading because it lines up with my destiny. I choose to attend events such as *Fresh* that help me to grow and provide an opportunity to minister to others, which is the ultimate destiny for all who believe.

I'm so looking forward to *Fresh* this year. Apart from a great day worshipping God and seeing Him move, we have something new this year. We are catering for children so that women who need a babysitter are able to come. So, welcome to those ladies who will be joining us now because of this provision. Another *Fresh* vision for 2011, as well as the conference day, is to have a ministry day specifically to women in leadership. If you lead in any way, we invite you to come along. I am looking forward to bringing some input on that day and God is already at work in my heart preparing me for that.

I believe we will see our churches go to a new level as we use our valuable energy to live our destiny and become more like Jesus. Judges 5:7 says, "Village life in Israel ceased until I, Deborah, arose, arose a mother in Israel".

Arise, live consciously, because the destiny God has lovingly created for you is too great to get distracted.

QUOTE FOR TODAY

Prayer is not a spare wheel that you pull out when in trouble; it is a steering wheel that directs us in the right path throughout life.

Fresh 2011



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