



O643
October 22, 2006

Breaking The Bondage Of Boredom

(How to live a life of passion)

(SERIES: **Mastering The Art Of The Fresh Start: 03 of 08**)
by Dr. David Foster

"My days are **swifter than a runner**; they fly away without a glimpse of joy." (Job 9:25)

"Lord, help me to realize how brief my time on earth will be. Help me to know that I am here for but a moment more. My life is no longer than my hand! My whole lifetime is but a moment to you. Proud man! Frail as breath! A shadow! And all his busy rushing ends in nothing. He heaps up riches for someone else to spend. And so, **LORD, MY ONLY HOPE IS IN YOU**. Save me from being overpowered by my sins, for even fools will mock me then." (Psa 39:4-8 TLB)

3 contributors to boredom & burnout:

Lack of meaningful relationships.

Lack of meaningful responsibilities.

Lack of meaningful rewards.

"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward." (1 Cor 3:11-14 NIV)

Which G(g)od do you serve?

The God who loves to redeem the bankrupt.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Mat 5:3 NIV)

The God who loves to rescue the bruised.

"Turn your ear to me, **come quickly to my rescue**; be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me. Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me." (Psa 31:2-3)

". . . I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry." (Psa 40:1)

The God who loves to reconcile the broken.

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom 8:38-39)

The God who loves to refire the bored.

"Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods. {5} Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders you have done. The things you planned for us no one can recount to you; were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare." (Psa 40:4-5)

"This is what the LORD says, he who made the earth, the LORD who formed it and established it--the LORD is his name: {3} 'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'" (Jer 33:2-3 NIV)

You get to choose.

You can burn up by sinking into despair.

"So now I hate life because it is all so irrational; all is foolishness, chasing the wind." (Eccl 2:17)

"I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind. What is twisted cannot be straightened; what is lacking cannot be counted." (Eccl 1:14-15)

You can burn out by struggling to do-good.

"It seems to be a fact of life that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love to do God's will so far as my new nature is concerned; but there is something else deep within me, in my lower nature, that is at war with my mind and wins the fight and makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. In my mind I want to be God's willing servant, but instead I find myself still enslaved to sin. So you see how it is: my new life tells me to do right, but the old nature that is still inside me loves to sin. Oh, what a terrible predicament I'm in! Who will free me from my slavery to this deadly lower nature?" (Rom 7:21-24 TLB)

You can burn on by surrendering to God's generous intentionality.

"Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin. Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death." (Rom 7:25-8:1-2 NIV)

"For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.'" (Jer 29:11-13 NIV)

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!" (Mat 7:7-11 NIV)