



# THE NOBLE HEART™

## Navigation Points

December 16, 2009 eLetter

For the last month, I've been surrounded by beautiful photographs with alluring, transcendent words drawing me in. They are arrayed around my office in the basement of our home. The photographs that stir me and remind me of what is true and core in our life with God in this world. They are navigation points.

**Story:** I am reminded that our life is not unintentional, unnoticed or unfelt. No, in fact, our life is choreographed, sculpted, painted, written by God - our life is a masterpiece. God has said, "I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future." (Jer. 29:11 NCV) We are in a grand and glorious story in which we have a weighty role. Often our circumstances seem nonsensical or unkind, not having any direction or redeeming value -but we must wait; for in time, the story will reveal itself – we will see our hope and good future.

**Invitation:** All of life is an invitation to "taste and see that the Lord is good". (Psa. 34:8) Every situation, every question, every desire, every fear is God's invitation for us to sit close to Him and let Him whisper words of counsel, encouragement, hope and love. "You will call upon me...and I will listen...You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." (Jer. 12, 13) Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are tired and have heavy loads, and I will give you rest". (Matt. 11:28 NCV) We are invited into intimacy and a great adventure with God. Most of us are just waiting for an invitation...and God has given us one.

**Glory:** There is a splendor to our life, as real and apparent as God's splendor in His un-spoiled creation. As aware as we may be with the harsh conditions of the mountains, seas, deserts and plains, we are still captivated by their beauty, strength and abundance. We also possess a beauty, strength, abundance despite the harshness of our life. As it is written, "But this precious treasure—this light and power that now shine within us—is held in perishable containers, that is, in our weak bodies. So everyone can see that our glorious power is from God and is not our own." (2 Cor. 4:7 NTL) The world must "taste and see that the Lord is good" by experiencing the treasure that God has given us – an aspect of His glory within us.

**Defiance:** It will take an act, a life of defiance to stand in this world. Many have succumbed to the bondage and decay of their surroundings. But we must not. We must bloom where we are planted, be who we are, offer our glory in all of its beauty, strength, splendor, abundance and weightiness. We must live defiantly, not becoming “so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what He wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.” (Rom. 12:2 Message) Perhaps defiance is our greatest act of love.

**Transition:** Transitions are an odd thing – a time where few things are as they were and what now is will change. We fear change because we sense it will only result in loss rather than it being a journey to something new, necessary or better. We cannot become what we were created to be and do by remaining who we are and where we are. There is a time to plant and a time to harvest, a time to tear down and a time to rebuild, a time to grieve and a time to dance, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time for war and a time for peace. (Eccl. 3 NLT) Transitions are not to be avoided, but rather embraced.

**Passageway:** There is mystery to the story we find ourselves in. Much remains in a fog where the needed sign-post and terrain is indistinguishable. Or we come to ravines, valleys, and canyons that appear uncross-able and then...God reveals a passageway, a bridge. He always does. There is no God-ordained destination or destiny for us that cannot be reached. God will always provide a passageway if we will but have eyes to see.

**Beauty:** In the midst of confusion and clarity, hardship and happiness, turbulence and tranquility, animosity and alliance, there is beauty. Along the way there is always beauty to feed our heart. We never have to leave the path to find what our heart needs for its journey. This story is about battle AND beauty.

**Relentless:** With the life we’ve been created to live, the glory we’ve been given to offer, we must be relentless in our love for God and others. Scripture is filled with encouragement to be diligent, persistent, faithful and persevering. Paul said, “we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak.” Our lives are to be unstoppable, not improbable. As we walk with God and offer the weightiness of our life to others, the Kingdom of God will advance. We must be relentless.

Let us navigate this life well together.

Gary

To see these pictures go to [www.thenobleheart.com/nobleheartproductions](http://www.thenobleheart.com/nobleheartproductions)