



THE NOBLE HEART™

Questions

January 22, 2009 eLetter

"It is not the answer that enlightens, but the question." Decouvertes

It continually amazes and delights me how God will raise a question in our heart in order to put light on something which is essential for our journey yet hidden. We search for answers, but what we must gain is enlightenment - the removal of dimness or blindness from one's eyes or heart.

About a week ago I asked God where in scripture He wanted to converse with me. I sensed His direction to Hebrews 12. While reading the chapter, two things spoke with a louder, more energetic voice.

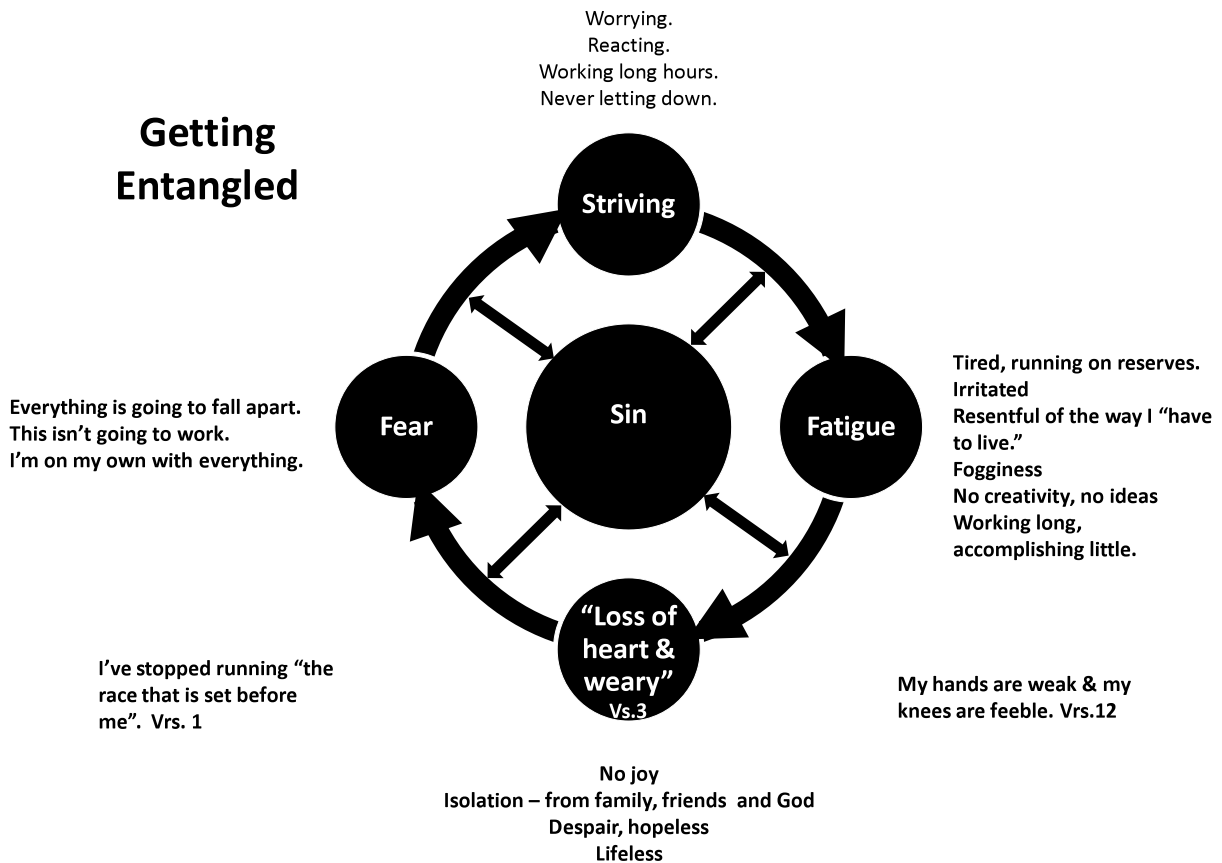
"For the joy set before him" Jesus fulfilled his purpose, his mission, his calling. (Vs. 2)

"Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us" live the life, the calling we have been given. (Vs. 1)

I've read these passages before, but this time my Father asked me, "What is your joy that beckons you on?" Wow, I would have thought that was an easy soft-pitch question, but it wasn't. I wrote the question in my journal and then just stared at the blank space below it. Had I replaced some transcendent joy for the satisfaction of getting things done, being responsible, keeping busy, surviving? Pretty much.

So, I did what any man would do, I moved on to the next question: "Gary, what gets you all tangled up and weighed down?" Ok, I could answer that easily. And, once again, being a guy, I had to draw it out, picture it.

Getting Entangled



This can be my life, without much thought or effort. But it is not the life I want nor the life for "which Christ Jesus took hold of me." (Phil. 3:12)

We must not "grow weary and lose heart", therefore we need to "throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles" so that we can move with endurance toward the joy set before us.

So, what is the joy that beckons me forward? For me there are two categories:

My family - the love and tenderness of my wife, and the strength and beauty of my children.

My calling - helping people recover their heart, walk with God, interpret their life, offer their glory, and persevere with joy.

What is the particular joy that God has placed on your heart and placed before you?

What do you need to throw off in order to "run with perseverance the race marked out for us?"

Making straight paths with you,

Gary