

## **FOURTH QUARTER STRATEGIES – Saturday, January 31, 2015**

Let's discuss our Christian walk. Here's a question I believe we all need to ask, "Do you live your life consistently?" Men instinctively have a tendency to compartmentalize, which leads to different behavior patterns in each facet of our lives. In our business dealings, we may be quite consistent and predictable in following a business model. Professional relationships will usually follow a code of ethics for our particular profession. Then again, when we deal with family matters we may handle those familial situations quite differently. Our social dealings may well create a very different behavior to fit into the norms for each group. And, our church involvement may take on a separate look altogether. So, I guess the question we need to ask is this, "Who are we really?"

As followers of Christ, do you live your life consistently? Doug Spada and Dave Scott, co-authors of Monday Morning Atheist, contend that we can easily fall into the trap of becoming a totally different person once we leave the sanctuary. This Christian book asks the reader to imagine God at work in all aspects of their business to bring about peace, power and purpose in our work life. In my opinion, this only scratches the surface of a much deeper issue. We need to allow God into all facets of our life. That's what Jesus did and we'd be wise to do the same.

As believers, the Holy Spirit is present and all we need to do is simply let Him take control of our lives instead of going solo. That's much easier said than done! As men, we have a tendency to get so consumed in whatever task we are doing that we often don't look outside of our dealings to allow Him to get involved in our circumstances. Oswald Chambers talks on this subject frequently in his devotional My Utmost for His Highest.

This literary work has become a mainstay of my devotional life for the past twenty-five years. The daily reading early each morning reminds me where the true source of power lies. It helps me to remain more consistent in all facets of my life and not slip in and out of my Christianity. In leading our family, in our business endeavors and in society, we need to stay on track and become "Salt and Light" to those God places in our path. That's what Jesus did and we need to follow His lead.

Here to serve,

Jim Langley

Passages to Ponder: Proverbs 3:5-6; Psalm 20:7; John 16:12-15; James 3:11-18; 1 John 1:5-9

*© 2015, all rights reserved. Note: Jim Langley has been an agent with New York Life since 1983 and an active member of CBMC of Santa Barbara since 1987. These "Fourth Quarter Strategies" discussions are designed to "light a fire" under Christian business and professional men so we might be more effective in the marketplace for the sake of Christ, our Lord and Savior!*

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### **Proverbs 3:5-6 New King James Version (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
And lean not on your own understanding;

<sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He shall direct your paths.

### **Psalm 20:7 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> Some *trust* in chariots, and some in horses;  
But we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

### **John 16:12-15 (NKJV)**

<sup>12</sup> "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. <sup>13</sup> However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you. <sup>15</sup> All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you.

### **James 3:11-18 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> Does a spring send forth fresh *water* and bitter from the same opening? <sup>12</sup> Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

<sup>13</sup> Who *is* wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct *that* his works *are done* in the meekness of wisdom. <sup>14</sup> But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. <sup>15</sup> This wisdom does not descend from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, demonic. <sup>16</sup> For where envy and self-seeking *exist*, confusion and every evil thing *are* there. <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup> Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

### **1 John 1:5-9 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

<sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.