

FOURTH QUARTER STRATEGIES – Saturday, December 20, 2014

Struggles are prevalent in this world and no doubt you've experienced your share on numerous occasions in your life. Some of you have stories you can share about a difficult childhood. Some of you have lost loved ones early in their lives. Some have faced business challenges that seemed insurmountable. We've all seen others face traumatic experiences and handle the circumstances in diverse ways. It's good to reflect on our struggles and hear the struggles of our friends. I believe there's much to be gained from such reflection. I also believe it's foolish to put your past struggles on a shelf and imagine they never happened.

Remember, in John 16:33 Jesus says, "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (NKJV) What's important is how we handle them! Personally, Janet and I have seen our share of difficulties in our many years of marriage as a Christian couple. In 1992 I was diagnosed with double pneumonia and according to my personal physician was close to death, when he admitted me to the hospital. Four days later I was released, but the seriousness of the illness affected me more than a year. It took a toll on my business, causing us to sell our home on a short sale which unfortunately led to filing for personal bankruptcy. As I reflected upon our difficult circumstances, I finally realized that God was working overtime to get my attention. Pride had taken its toll and I needed to reset my priorities. One of the early actions I took entailed sitting down and writing out my Life Purpose Statement. I highly recommend as a Christian businessman that you take on the task to develop your own Life Purpose Statement and reflect on it frequently.

My Life Purpose Statement (revised version) was refined, dated and signed on June 12, 2005. It starts out with five "Key Verses from God's Word" that I knew the Lord spoke to me for this critical process in my future direction. I'll include those verses under "Passages to Ponder" at the end of this discussion. My purpose statement then breaks down five paragraphs dealing with those bible verses. In summary, let me simply say that this process has helped me to remain focused on what is really important in life. It has nothing to do with our successes and accomplishments. It has everything to do with serving God, family and others. We all need to learn from the daily struggles we face and apply those lessons to pleasing God and serving Him in all matters for His glory!

Here to serve,

Jim Langley, CLU

Passages to Ponder: Romans 14:8; Colossians 3:23; James 1:2&3; John 1:12 & Ecclesiastes 4:12

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!

FOURTH QUARTER STRATEGIES – Saturday, December 20, 2014 Verses

Romans 14:8 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

Colossians 3:23 New King James Version (NKJV)

²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,

James 1:2-3 New King James Version (NKJV)

Profiting from Trials

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

John 1:12 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

Ecclesiastes 4:12 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹² Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him.

And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.