

Special Forces: Day Thirty

Intermediate Training: Unit Two

Relentless Pursuit

You Can Run but You Can't Hide

During the war against terrorism, that began after the New York World Trade Center disaster, the U.S. Defense Secretary was reported to have considered the use of American Special Operations Forces (SOF) to capture or kill terrorist leaders outside of their 'home turf'. Whether the relentless pursuit of an enemy as a tactic is necessary or could even be successful in eliminating the threat might be a matter of debate. However, the message to terrorists clear, they can run but they can't hide. A terrorist on the run without safe haven anywhere on the planet would have reason to be more than a little paranoid. Life becomes rather uncomfortable for that individual, to say the least.

No matter how efficient American SOF might be, they cannot be everywhere at once, nor do they know the specific thoughts and intents of the enemy. Although Special Operations Forces may be extremely efficient, they have limitations. Nevertheless, this author would not want to be the enemy knowing who might be on my trail!

God, on the other hand, knows no such limitations. Listen to the words of the Psalmist David:

Key Verse:

*Lord, You have searched me and known me.
You know my sitting down and my rising up;
You understand my thought afar off.
You comprehend my path and my lying down,
And are acquainted with all my ways.
For there is not a word on my tongue,
But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.
You have hedged me behind and before,
And laid Your hand upon me.
Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?
If I ascend into heaven, You are there;
If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.*

Psalm 139:1-5, 7-8 (NKJV)

David knew that it is totally useless to try and hide from the living God. He also realized that the God's ability to see and know everything about him was not a bad thing. David knew that God was leading and guiding him. Note his attitude:

*If I take the wings of the morning,
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there Your hand shall lead me,
And Your right hand shall hold me.
I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;*

*Marvelous are Your works,
And that my soul knows very well.
How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!
How great is the sum of them!*

Verses 9-10, 14, 16

It is significant to note that while God pursues His children and knows all about them, His desire is to capture hearts and give life, not to incarcerate or destroy. Hear the words of Jesus to the disciples.

The thief (Satan) does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. John 10:10 (NKJV)

So What?

If God just wants what is best for us, what's to worry about? Like one song says, "Don't worry, be happy!" There's another side to this coin. While God is always my friend I might not always be His friend:

Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"? James 4:4-5 (NKJ)

If I am a Christian, His Spirit is dwelling within, leading and guiding. If my priorities in life revolve around whatever I can get to be successful, richer, more popular, etc. (selfish materialism), I will face inner conflict with what God's Spirit desires. The Spirit's yearning to draw me closer to God will either make my life uncomfortable, or cause me to rejoice knowing He is leading and guiding me into true peace and happiness.

If I am uncomfortable there is a simple solution – quit running! Sound like a tall order with all the pressures around us? Not really! Here's a key from scripture:

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Romans 12:2 (NKJV)

Just like my computer, it's a matter of selective input! It's the old 'garbage in, garbage out' principle. I can't control all of the garbage, but I can certainly be involved in the transformation and renewal process by reading the Word, having frequent conversations with my Lord, continuing in fellowship with other believers (more than warming a pew one day a week), and making God honoring choices for the conduct of my personal and social life.

Remember, you can run, but you can't hide! If you are running, be assured that what you are running toward only wants to squeeze you into a mold that will never bring true peace and happiness. Realize you are running and respond:

- Give up, life will be a lot easier and you will find real peace and happiness!
- Be transformed – take out the garbage and initiate renewal!

And remember – God does want what is best for you!

"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." John 10:10b (NKJV)