

TWO DRIVERS, TWO DESTINATIONS

1 Thessalonians 5:9 2 Corinthians 4:16-19

Introduction: When our children were small and we would go visit grandparents on holidays some three or four hours drive away, it could get frustrating, both to me, the driver and to the children who were riding in the back seat. I knew where we were going, the way to go, about how long it would take and how to get us all there without incident. Think with me now as we make a comparison between us, our children and God and us, His children if you would.

I. ON THE WAY TO OUR DESTINATION, "NO" HAD TO BE SAID TO SOME REQUESTS

1. Can you imagine the outcome if a parent honored each request of each child during a trip?
 - "I'm hungry, let's stop and eat," "I've got to go to the bathroom," "Let's stop and get out for a while," "Stop! I want to ride up front for a while," and so on.
2. Can you imagine the chaos if God indulged each of us in each of our requests?
 - "NO!" is a necessary word between parents and children and between God and us.
 - Destination has to reign over requests.
3. God's destiny for us is salvation, heaven, that holy city.
 - Just as we do make some necessary stops along the way for our children, God also makes stops along the way and honors "some" of our requests - if they are for our own good.
 - When God's plans and our wants collide, a decision must be made by the "driver." God chooses His stops over ours. He knows where we are going, we don't.
4. When we went to visit grandparents and I was driving, I was in charge, just like you when you drive.
 - But as we go through our Christian life, we forget that WE are not doing the driving, God is and He is in charge. He's responsible for us and is concerned about our destiny.
5. The requests our children made/make are not evil, nor unfair, or rebellious, some were great and we even stopped and did some of those things they wanted to stop and do, but MOST were unnecessary, however the children didn't think so, still I would say "No!"
 - Requests we make to God seems indispensable to us, but God, whose eyes is on our destination says "NO."

II. CHILDREN HAVE NO CONCEPT OF MINUTES OR MILES

1. "How much longer?" "Are we there yet?" "I'm getting tired of riding." "We should have been there by now," and so on.
2. Sometimes traveling seems forever to our children. It seems that way to us, too with some things in life.
 - "How long must I be sick?" "How long must I live in this boring town?" "How long must I try to pay bills on the little I have?" "How long must I put up with unthankful children?"

- God could answer all our questions in exact detail to the exact second or dollar, but He doesn't. He chooses not to tell us for our own good.
4. God has chosen to show us how long in terms of "here and now" compared to "then and there."
 - *"...our days are like a shadow - our life is like a breath - life is like a mist that rises from the ground and then vanishes - life is like grass, it flourishes, is blown over by the wind and is then gone - forgotten..."*
 5. The journey to the grandparents' isn't really that long. I've been there many times, I know the roads, it's home, but not to the children. I know what it will be like when we get there, but they don't.

III. CHILDREN CAN'T ENVISION THE REWARDS OF THE TRIP

1. Several hours on the road is nothing because I know what awaits - Mom and Dad, familiar faces, turkey, family, fellowship, a fun time.
 - Our children had forgotten their last visit there. It was a long way for them and things looked strange along the way. It was my job as their parent and driver to get them there safely, in spite of all their grumbling and complaining.
2. We began to tell them what was waiting for them at the grandparents' house.
 - Their grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, food, sleeping on pallets on the floor, no school, staying up late and a lot of fun things to do.
 - They stopped their fussing, grumbling and complaining as they began to think about what was awaiting them.
3. It wasn't easy for them to see what was not right there in front of them, but it was very helpful to get them to think about it for them to settle down and be happy along the way.
 - It isn't easy for us either. On our way to a city we've never seen before and along the way it's dark, stormy, lonesome, bumpy, and tiredness setting in, but it's necessary for us also.
4. Paul kept his eyes on his destination but along the way he was: **2 Corinthians 11:23-27**

CONCLUSION:

1. Some have been on the journey a long time, through many storms, difficulties, burdens, lost partners, dashed dreams, bodies wearing out, tiredness setting in and bills higher than your income.
 - It's getting harder to see that city and there have been times you wanted to pull over and stop.
2. The destination God is taking His Children to is worth it all.
 - Back at the grandparents house, it didn't take us long to do away with all the turkey and trimmings, all the children were playing, aunts and uncles talking and dozing, dishes clattering in kitchen, faint smell of the baked turkey, etc..
 - Strange, nobody talked about the long, tiring trip to get there. The joy of actually being there overshadowed and erased all the trip's unpleasanties.
 - God may not do all we ask along the way, but He WILL get us there.