

So, I made it to the top of the hill. Now, it is interesting that having finished the hill climb, up that long slope, I do not want to stop. Actually, I get a new burst of energy. I re-discover my pace and start hitting a very comfortable stride. Oh, and did I mention, I am now again going downhill? That doesn't hurt. But, more than that, I know what lies ahead of me is my favorite part of the journey. I actually start to pick up a little speed as I run through the intersection, past the park, and onto the "boardwalk" (which is actually made out of brick). I encounter singles and couples and families who are starting their holiday weekend with a trip down to the lake. For there it is, on my left, the sparkling, calm water of Elkhart Lake. Seeing the quiet waters has a calming effect on me as well. I hit a steady pace so I can look and enjoy the beautiful scene to which I have arrived. I feel God's presence there in a special way. The journey to get here was not an easy one; it was challenging in many different ways. But, now, it all seemed worth it. And then it hit me that, of course, this wasn't my destination. It was just the half way mark! It was very tempting to sit down on the beach and watch the water roll into the shore; to watch children and parents and grandparents start their day of fun in the sun. It certainly would not be bad thing to enjoy that moment. But, this wasn't the end. So what?! I am on a day off. I deserve a break. Why is it so important to run the full 5k this day?

As you continue your spiritual walk this week, as you walk closer into the presence of God, think about where you are on that path. Maybe you have reached the top of the hill and you are now able to look forward to the quiet moments by still waters. Maybe you are on a longer journey. Either way, I urge you to look around. Look for the blessings of God that are right in front of you. God's presence in nature. The joy of seeing people in harmony. But, if this is not the end of your journey, or at least if you think you can get still closer to your spiritual goal, don't stop! Enjoy the moment. Take advantage of the beauty which surrounds you as you pause to reflect on God's goodness. But, keep your original goal in mind as well. Decide if you can do both...enjoy the moment and keep on moving closer to your spiritual goal.

Blessings on this day of Sabbath rest!

Shalom,

Bill