

A Marriage Minute™

A simple help to make your marriage just a little better this week.

STRAINING FORWARD



“Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus..

—Philippians 3:13-15

Here we had an entire weekend off to get caught up on some housework, recreation and relaxation, and wouldn't you just expect "Ole Beady Eyes" to try to mess it up by causing some kind of a tiff between us to ruin the whole weekend? Yeah, you've been there. Don't think that just because we're marriage counselors we never have a bad day. Well anyway, Saturday we "had words." There was a time when that would have easily ruined our entire weekend. But instead of running off to our own corners to lick our wounds and fret, we decided to talk it through. And you know what? Though it was still difficult to stay in that place of grace, without letting emotions sabotage the dialogue, with the help of the Holy Spirit we were able to "strain" forward, and end our conversation, with prayer, and a little better understanding of each other, and a little stronger in our "oneness" as God is building us up into Him.

On Sunday, we awakened to a beautiful Spring-like day. All of nature seemed to worship God. We took a picnic lunch and visited John Jay's homestead in Westchester. It was beautiful. As we strolled the grounds hand-in-hand we really felt like we were winning the prize for which God had called us heavenward in Christ Jesus. Even if Saturday was difficult. It was a strain, but it was a strain forward.

Question for The Both of Us: How has the enemy caused us to mess up weekends or vacations that really could have been a real blessed time? How did each one of us contribute to the disaster?

Prayer For The Both of Us: Lord, help us to have the gentleness and self-control to strain forward no matter how difficult it may be. Be our strength. Help us to redeem the times so that Ole Beady Eyes will not steal the good times you have reserved for us.

This Couples Devotional is brought to you by Marriage & Family Savers Ministries. Visit them at www.marriageandfamily.org

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