

The Monday Memo
from the desk of
Dr. John Stanko
Issue Eleven

I just finished planting my vegetable garden, and putting up a new fence around it to keep out the critters who want to eat my stuff before I get the chance. I love working in the garden. I can see the results of my labors quickly, something I can't always do. Before that I visited my 84-year-old mother, since I won't see her for three weeks due to my trip to Africa. I still have a lot to do before I leave on Tuesday, but I'm a happy man. I did what I wanted to do and now I am writing *The Monday Memo*. God is good; life is good (at least *today* I feel that way).

Tomorrow will be a busy day. I have too much planned, but I will prioritize my day and do what I can. I will trust the Lord to help me have time to do what is most important. What doesn't get done, well it just won't get done. But whatever happens tomorrow, my garden is in and I visited my mom.

I ran across two quotes that reiterate what we have talked about the last several weeks. The first one is as follows:

We are beat up, tired, and exhausted, but it's not the things we're doing that are wearing us out. It's the burden of all the things we're not doing. It's the knowledge of things undone that causes us to wish for more hours in a day. When watching television, it's all the shows we aren't watching that drive us crazy. We have too many possibilities, too little time. Overchoice strikes again.

Overchoice is not only keeping us average, it's making us tired. We delude ourselves with the hope we can "find time" or "make time" for all the things we'd like to do, yet time can be neither found nor made. Time will continue to sweep past us at its own pace, oblivious to our existence, just as it has since the days of Adam. We cannot manage time; we can only manage ourselves. We will quit feeling tired only

when we've learned to say no to overchoice. -- Roy H. Williams in *The Wizard of Ads*.

The second is short and to the point:

The key is not to prioritize what's on your schedule, but to schedule your priorities. -- Stephen R. Covey

You need to be realistic as you approach this week and every week. Perhaps you are putting too much pressure on yourself over all the things you're *not* doing. But can you look at the next seven days and put a few things in place that will allow next Sunday night to be a happy time and not one filled with regret over lost time and opportunities?

I want you to schedule in, right now, some things this week that you would like to do, things like taking your children to the park, visiting and simply talking with an elderly friend or family member, reading your favorite magazine, or doing nothing. That's right. On top of everything else I did today, I took a nap. And it felt great. How about putting a big "X" through one day this week and resting. Now there's a novel idea!! Can't do a whole day? Well, then settle for a nap.

Next week I want to talk about God granting us the desires of our heart. I have been thinking about that all week, but I felt we needed to talk about being realistic with our schedules one more week. Tune in next week for another edition, but in the meantime, schedule your priorities this week and trust the Lord for the time to do what is most important to you.

The Monday Memo
Friday edition -- South Africa
from the hotel room of
Dr. John Stanko
Issue Twelve

I know, I know. It's not Monday yet. But I am in Durban, South Africa on my way to Zimbabwe early tomorrow morning. While I can access email in Zimbabwe, I cannot use my computer to do so. Therefore I can't use *The Monday Memo* list stored there. So if this is too early for you, put *The Memo* in your inbox and read it on Monday.

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I am sitting on the 27th floor in my hotel room on the Indian Ocean with the window wide open so I can hear the ocean sounds. Winter is coming to Africa but Durban is comfortable, sort of like south Florida back home. I am on my way to Zimbabwe to conduct several business forums with a team of speakers. I have participated in these forums for the last three years and it has been a desire of my heart for many years to take Christian principles and "package" them for a secular market. And that is what I want to talk about to you this week.

No, I am not referring to business forums or Zimbabwe, but about *the desires of your heart*. I was impressed with a verse from Psalm 37 last week, which states:

"Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart."

We have talked in past weeks about finding time for those things that are important to you and also things that stem from your values. I want to add one more category of things to your to-do list -- things that come not from duty but from the desires of your heart.

I have found that many are afraid their heart cannot be trusted. That is why they bury their heart's desires amid life's clutter and busyness. Others are afraid of being disappointed (again). But the verse

is clear. If you take pleasure in God, He will fulfill your heart's desire. That's not complicated; it's straightforward.

As I have tried to understand what Psalm 37:4 means, I've been assisted by the Amplified Version translation of Proverbs 16:3. If you have attended one of my Gold Mine seminars, you will recognize this verse right away:

"Roll your works upon the Lord -- commit and trust them wholly to Him. He will cause your thoughts to be agreeable to His will, and so shall your plans be established and succeed."

Imagine that. Your thoughts can be and, probably already are, agreeable to His will because you've rolled your works on Him. You don't have to hesitate, doubt, or ask for more confirmations. You just have to put some of those thoughts down on paper and then, this week, **do** something to see them fulfilled. The time is here. The time is now.

Business forums were a desire of my heart and God is helping me plan them because God put the desire there in the first place! And He has put many of the desires in your heart as well. You don't have to be afraid of them. You just have to take faith steps today, this week, to see if this is the time for them to be fulfilled.

Beyond business forums, my heart's desire is to see something called a Center for Life Purpose established in churches and ministries all around the world. These Centers will be places for people to come for help to define their life purpose, find out more about their strengths and gifts, set goals, and get recharged and refocused for their most productive days that lie ahead. These Centers will be places of energy and rest; focus and reflection; freedom and release.

So, I am in Africa not only for the business forums, but to talk about my heart's desire. Out of these Centers, I especially want to see African administrators released into action in every church and ministry in Africa. They are out there; God wants me to find, mentor, and release them.

What about you? What's in your heart? If it will help, write me (or someone) with what you believe to be your heart's desires. I probably won't be able to respond until I get home, but I shared mine with you, now maybe you should share yours with me.

Don't be afraid of your heart any longer. Use this week to get in touch, perhaps again, with what the Lord has placed there. If you've committed your works to Him, then He is causing your thoughts to be agreeable to His will. Now use the next seven days to help make your thoughts and desires a reality.

The Monday Memo
from the computer of
Dr. John Stanko
June 11, 2001
Issue Thirteen

Special note: In trying to send *The Monday Memo* from the Johannesburg airport last Saturday, it is now clear that some made it through and some did not. So I decided to re-send it to make sure everyone receives a copy this week. If this is a duplicate, please forgive me. If not, then enjoy this special African wrap up issue. If you already responded to the free gift offer, there is no need to send it again. I have it and will process your request when I get home later this week -- John Stanko.

Greetings. I am writing this in Zambia as I prepare to go to Botswana. I am not sure where or when I will be able to send this, but I am preparing it in faith that somehow I will be able to send this before I return home on June 13.

It has been a great trip. I missed writing you last week, and I told you if I missed I week I would make it up to you. I have some gift choices for you at the end of *The Monday Memo*, so endure to the end and you will be saved, rather rewarded.

I spent all of last week in Zimbabwe where I spoke 16 times in 8 days. I spoke in five different churches and was part of a teaching team that conducted two Business Forums in two cities. Last Sunday I spoke three times for a total of six hours. As my mother would say, "No one knows *that* much to be able to talk *that* long about anything." She's probably correct.

When I got back to my hotel room on Sunday night, I felt good. I was a bit tired because it was 11 pm, but I still felt great. I asked the Lord, "Why do I feel so good?" It was then I was reminded about what I call **divine energy**.

In Ephesians 3:7, Paul wrote, "I became a servant of God's grace given to me through the **working of his power**." The word working there is translated from the Greek word **energes**. That word literally

means **active, operative, effectual, and powerful**. In its context, that verse is referring to the **divine energy** that came from God's power to Paul when he functioned in his purpose. When Paul was doing what God wanted him to do, Paul saw a dynamic of **divine energy** that helped him do it.

I felt that same **energy** in Zimbabwe. I was busy, but I wasn't worn out. I didn't always sleep well there, but I was always **energized** when I taught, when I was helping people bring order out of chaos, which is my purpose. I sensed God helping me because I was doing what He wanted me to do where He wanted me to do it.

Where else is that concept mentioned in the Bible? Let's take a look:

1. Ephesians 1:19 -- "and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the **working** of his mighty strength which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms."

Here we see God's power is **energizing** those who believe, who have faith. And what kind of power does He **energize** you and me with? No less than the same power that raised Christ from the dead and then brought Him to heaven in bodily form.

2. Galatians 5:6 -- "The only thing that counts is faith **expressing** itself through love."

We see there that faith through love **energizes** you to express yourself, your God-given purpose. The NAS version states it as "faith **working** through love." But it's the verb form of the same word -- **energeo**.

3. Ephesians 2:1-2 -- As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is not at **work** in those who are disobedient.

There is an **energy** that is behind evil and wickedness. How much more should you and I be **energized** by a **divine energy** as we work to destroy the kingdom of darkness?

Is this power and **energy** present in your life? You can't get it by wanting it, fasting for it, reading about it, or exercising. You can only get this divine energy when you are doing what you were born to do. If you are tired, then you must ask yourself, "Am I doing what the Lord wants me to do?" If the answer is no, then what steps are you prepared to take to connect yourself to this **divine energy**. It is not available on the open market. You can only get it where God has stored it for you; in the context of your purpose. When you find it, God will **energize** you to do whatever it is He wants. And you will be none the worse for wear.

I urge you this week to examine where your **energy** lies and then do what you can to function there more regularly. It's fun, and you will be connected to an unlimited supply of what I call **divine energy**.

The Monday Memo
from the desk of
Dr. John Stanko
June 18, 2001
Issue Fourteen

I receive a lot of questions every week, and most of them focus on the issue of life purpose. Over the years, the questions asked most often, along with my answers, are as follows:

Q. Can my purpose change over time?

A. No. How you fulfill your purpose may change, but your purpose remains the same. I have fulfilled my purpose, which is to bring order out of chaos, in a number of different job roles. My purpose is the same; how I do it may change.

Q. Can I have more than one purpose?

A. No. You can have many gifts and talents, or different ways to express or fulfill your purpose, but your purpose is a clear, simple summary of your essence that is singular.

Q. Should or can a husband and wife have the same purpose?

A. No. While it is possible for a couple to have the same purpose, I have found it to be rare. Even if both work in the same business, mission or ministry, each partner will have a different purpose, a different function in the same organization. Usually those purposes complement one another.

Q. What is the difference between a gift and purpose?

A. A gift is like a tool that you carry with you to help fulfill your purpose. A plumber's purpose is not to "wrench."
The wrench helps the plumber achieve his or her purpose to repair or build. Your gifts do the same for you, but they are not to be confused with your purpose.

Q. What is the difference between my ministry and my purpose?

I want to focus on this answer for the remainder of this *Monday Memo*. Too often we are tempted to separate what we do in church from what we do outside of church. We tend to think of ministry as related to church work, and purpose as something that may or may not fit into our church role. I contend that there is no difference between the two.

I met with a man in Atlanta, Georgia last year who has made a career in the field of human resources. Yet he was clearly a pastor. When I suggested that perhaps he was a chaplain or pastor in his company, he rejected the idea at first because he didn't have a pulpit or like public speaking. Yet he clearly had cared and "shepherded" people for his entire corporate career. By the end of our meeting, he began to see his purpose was to care for people in a business setting. He began to see that his purpose was his ministry; it just wasn't taking place within the walls of a church building. That knowledge set him free to be who God made him to be and freed him from thinking that his ministry and purpose were two different things. They were not.

Perhaps you aren't clear about your purpose because you have put God in a box. You are a prophet, but everyone knows that prophets only function in a church setting. Who said that? You bring healing and wholeness to people, but don't lay hands on anyone or do it within a church. Does that limit your purpose or usefulness to God? Are you a preacher, but your pulpit is in a school or hospital? I met a man once whose title was school principal or headmaster, but whose purpose was to pastor the children who attended his school and their parents.

As we close, read the words of Robert Greenleaf and be free to minister (which simply means to serve) in whatever setting the Lord chooses for you, whether it is in or outside the church:

The great religious prophets of the future will not necessarily be theologians, philosophers, or people of literature. They are as likely to be lawyers, doctors, businesspeople, scientists, or politicians. And they will carry out their prophetic roles while functioning at a high level of excellence in their professional field. In fact, unless significant prophecy emerges in all of these

places, the vision, without which the people perish, will not be sufficiently evident.

The world society in which we are all inextricably involved is far too complex, it is in too revolutionary a mood, and it is fast becoming too literate and aware of its sources of expertise for very much of the prophetic wisdom it needs to be uttered by ministers, scholars, or writers. These will, of course, continue to serve, but more on a par with those who are more immersed in the ongoing work of the world.

**Businesses, government bureaus, law firms, clinics, and scientific laboratories have not only become large, sophisticated institutions and important sources of new knowledge, but they are just as likely to harbor a philosopher, a prophet, or a saint as is the monastery or the university - Seeker and Servant:
Reflections on Religious Leadership.**

I hope this week you will find new peace to be who God made you to be in the setting that is best suited for **you**.

The Monday Memo
from the desk of
Dr. John Stanko
June 25, 2001
Issue Fifteen

There I was, standing next to her bed. Lorie was in pain and I was chosen to pray for her accompanied by my wife. We had organized a trip for adult singles in the Colorado mountains. While snow skiing, Lorie had fallen and injured her back. She was confined to her bed. When I asked her if I could pray, she hesitated and refused! I asked her why and she responded, "I didn't want to come on this trip, but my pastor urged me to come and meet new people." Then she said something that struck me as most interesting. "I decided to come," she explained, "but said to myself that I wasn't going to meet *anyone*." By the way, she did agree to prayer and she was back on her feet by the end of the week.

Lorie had released a powerful force when she made the vow that she wasn't going to meet anyone. When Lorie said that, she had set a goal, and, without trying to fall, had unconsciously achieved her goal of not meeting anyone new. While this is a simple example, it contains the elements common to the process of achieving a goal. These elements are:

1. She was clear about what she wanted (or didn't want) to do.
2. There was a time limit.
3. She spoke it to someone, even if only to herself.
4. A mysterious "power" was released that enabled her to achieve her goal, as negative as it was.

Of course, you and I know what this mysterious power is; it is the power of God. When you and I set a goal, we follow the same simple four-step process outlined above. Let's take my goal of reaching the

1,000-name plateau for *The Monday Memo* by June 30 as an example, and look at the biblical principles that apply:

1. It is clear and concise: Habakkuk 2:2 states, "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that the herald may run with it." Writing down your goals often helps clarify them for you and others.
2. There is a time limit: Habakkuk 2:3 continues, "For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay." Setting a time limit creates urgency and releases and focuses your faith. Everything happens in the fullness of time.
3. I have written or "spoken" to you about it for the last three weeks: Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 4:13, "It is written, 'I believe, therefore I have spoken.' With that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak." When you have faith to do something, you need to speak about it. Faith **always** requires action and the only action plan you have available at times is to talk about what you will do.
4. God gets involved to see the goal accomplished: Ephesians 3:20-21 says, "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work in us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." If you can think, speak, or imagine it, God can go beyond that!

When I started The Monday Memo in March, I didn't know how it would be received. But the response has been more than I anticipated. With that in mind, I expect to go over the 1,000-name plateau this week, not because I'm smart, but because God is able.

What about you? What are your goals? If you need help with goal-setting, then I have some resources that may be of help. Write me this week and request one of two chapters that are found in two of my books. One chapter has to do with personal goal setting and the other with goal setting on your job or in your organization. Let me

know which one you want and I'll send it right off to you. Both contain questions to answer and steps to take.

Don't wait another day to release the power of a goal, and see God do immeasurably more than anything you can write down, declare or imagine!