

Biblical Counseling Center publishes eCounselor's Weekly guide, to encourage counselors and all believers in discipleship and daily growth.

Life as a Construction Zone

by Kim Cunningham

If you live anywhere near Chicago, you are familiar with the saying "There are two seasons in Chicago – winter and construction!" Our lives in Christ only have one season prior to Heaven, and it's one of constant construction!

Don't fear the jackhammer!



When you drive by a construction zone, you typically see workers with big machines tearing up the road, making a huge mess. God's work in our lives can look much the same way as He breaks up and tears apart what He means to change in our lives. Hebrews 12:1-3 says, "... let us also lay aside every weight and the sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith... consider Him who endured such hostility against Himself so that you will not grow weary or fainthearted." God is using His process of breaking up our old sinful ways so He can change us into who He intended us to be! It's up to us to submit to His construction process through whatever means of change He uses (Heb 12:11-13).

Don't let detours discourage you!

Sometimes signs in a construction zone seem to lead you away from the path you were traveling, away from the destination you intended. Sometimes it seems as if happenings in our lives are leading us away from the direction we thought God had us going. God can and will use everything we go through to lead us right to where He intends for us to be. Paul tells the people in Philippi that his imprisonment, which looked like a MAJOR detour, actually served to further God's purposes in spreading the Gospel (Php 1). He encouraged them with this hope, "And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Christ Jesus." As a friend of mine loves to say, "God is the great recycler." Nothing is wasted with Him. We just need to persevere with our eyes on God until He brings us to our appointed destination!

The blockades are there to protect you!

In dangerous areas of construction, the workers put up concrete barriers to keep you from getting too close, to protect you from the harm that could happen in that area. God does the same for us. Many times in His Word He says, "Don't go there!" The ten commandments are an excellent example of this principle: don't lie, don't murder, don't covet, don't have other gods before me, etc.... He tells us this for our own good. My pastor is fond of saying "When God says don't, He means don't hurt yourself!" God loves us so much that He wants us to live blessed lives as we stay away from things that hurt us.

In Scripture God explains the harm that can come to us for not living in His boundaries, and the blessing that comes from walking in his ways (Rom 6, Ps 1)! Since I became a believer, I've wanted to wear a shirt that says "Under Construction." We are all in that construction zone until God is finished with His good work in us!

See also Romans 8:18-25, Romans 5:3-5, Hebrews 10:35-39, 11:3.

**What is God using in your life right now to make you more like Him? What is your response?
Will you express gratitude to Him for His work in you and for the things He is using to train you?**

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