

Windows of Opportunity

There are moments in our lives that can be seen through windows. I look back on an incident and I have certain feelings about it. Yet, upon reflection, it was not what I thought it was. Some events are different today than I had imagined. Why do I remember certain things one way while they are clearly another. I suppose that people marry someone and, in a few years, wonder why. In the moment is all we have (in the moment). Yet, a few years later we can peer back through a window at those memories. We just created hindsight. However, is the window clean?

In some ways we might be looking at things through windows all the time. There is a false look at a spouse when we meet them. That job seemed so right. What were we thinking? Couldn't we see it coming? How many actors passed on iconic roles. Surely, we voted for the right person last election. Time has a way of skewing our view. Is it wisdom, knowledge, or something else that makes the window clearer? Are there other factors like feelings and pride that play a role in what we choose?

It is weird that I was a runner in grade 9. I was good at it. At the very least I was into it. Yet, somewhere along the way I stopped. Fast forward 40 years. 40 years! I am a runner once again. I cannot tell you why I stopped. Yet, the only thing that will stop me now is my body and age. I look at other people in the prime of their lives and cringe. They are struggling to find who they are. Some are always sick or overweight. So many people do not take the time to build their life. Instead, they are just living in the moment. I have done the bulk of my life between 40-57. The window of 0-39 is mirky. I am not sure why that amount of time looks wasted.

What does God have to say? Psalm 71:9 *“Do not cast me off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength is spent.”* Of course, this is a man asking God not to forget him. Yet, deep within this is a yearning to still be relevant in our old age. It is ok to look back through your historical windows. Yet, we will never see it exactly as it was. In age, memories fade to grey. They become shadows. God is saying that we should not become a shadow of ourselves in our old age. Let us ask God for more life to live.

What about the window of opportunity? At what age does that stop? So many people stop living after high school. Every kid had hopes and dreams. One bad event and we just stop. Not everyone, but many. I am convinced it is well over 50%. Life in the real world is hard. The nuts and bolts of hunter/gatherer still exists today. Go to school? Apply for a job? Find yourself? There are universities to sabbaticals. How do you change the view in the windows of opportunity?

In some ways my life is a failure. At-least 33 years was spend floating along. There was no direction. I was just getting battered by everything that hit me. I think that happens to a lot of people. Yet, my past shaped me to run today. I did not like getting battered about. It took time! I had to learn! Yet, today I do not care about past windows that much. Instead, I am trying to make clearer windows for future opportunity. To be rich? To be famous? I think it is to be satisfied with what I can become. To take the time to mold and shape me.

Yes, I need God to mold and shape me. In part, I think that is what has been happening for the last 25 years. Somehow, deep inside me, I have always wanted to be better at being me. It has been a tough challenge. Life says no. People say no. My inner voice says no! Yet, somehow, and some way I must say yes. There are windows I am making right now as I sit here. Windows I will look back at in 20 years (God willing). How will I reflect on that view?

I have become a runner. In a way I am trying to be an athlete at 57. I am still working but not for long. I do not need to retire but I want to retire. Why? It is because I have so much more I want to achieve. Work is in the way. To be an athlete takes a ton of dedication and time. It is almost a full-time job. I like it because there is dedication, biology, and effort involved. This is a tough route. Yet, it is inspiring me to challenge myself. To do what I believe is not possible.

That is, it really. What would you like to do that is deemed impossible? Lately I have been seeing quotes on doing the impossible dream. So, I signed up for a full marathon. I can do this. Yet, my mind says no. It is too far. I might get hurt. Yet, the window of opportunity is there. What is on the other side of that window? I will never know if I do not build it. Go through it. One thing is for sure, the windows of regret and lost opportunity are made when we do not push ourselves through the window of opportunity. The time is now because you don't want to be saying it's too late I should of done it.