



CEO Devotional – March 3, 2014
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Praying the Psalms

When I was asked to write this devotional I had just come through a few of the toughest challenges of my personal and professional lives. It made it difficult to choose which to highlight for my CEO Forum family.

I started 2013 with some major challenges and brought them before the Lord in my quiet time with Him. I discussed them at length with my Spiritual Leadership Institute (SLI) discipler, Dick Schultz, and then waited to hear from God. The clear leading I was receiving from the Father was to "pray the Psalms." So I did. There are 150 Psalms and I took them in groups of 5 each day and did this for all of 2013.

The day before Thanksgiving this past year I wrote a letter to the 14 members of my senior executive team which I cleverly call "The SET." I felt led to get out of my "CEO comfort zone" and become transparent and lay myself bare on the altar of their reasoning and contemplation. I would like to share a few excerpts with you. But first, in a nutshell the three areas for my prayer focus in 2013 were: 1. Total man fitness - spirit, soul, and body. 2. Unity and healing in my family. 3. Deep trust within The SET. I won't elaborate on #1 except to say I lost 50 pounds last year. I feel great; I'm thinking better and enjoying my quiet time with God more than ever.

Here are the excerpts related to #2 and #3: *"Many of you know my daughter Elena went through a divorce process in 2012 which was very stressful for our family. Because of this, my second area of focus in my daily prayer time was for there to be 'unity once again in our family and a healing to take place between Elena and her siblings' as well as full restoration of Elena's relationship with Kathy and me. Kathy and I saw answers to our prayers all year long in this area, culminating with Elena being married to a wonderful young man in September with all her brothers attending and 'in unity' with their sister once again. Kathy and I feel we "have our daughter back" and couldn't be more pleased, especially because she is expecting our fifth granddaughter, Norah Grace, in March 2014.*

My third area of daily focus was for 'genuine trust and deep respect to exist and become evident on my senior executive team'. Like my fitness and health need, I knew this would not happen without an intervention of some sort. The intervention came from lots of directions, not least of which was our time together at the C Lazy U Ranch. More than that particular week, while certainly significant, is the 'intervention' among you since then with each other. I was incredibly pleased to hear of meetings that you all in some combination attended with each other and the effort you have all made to truly understand both the differences and similarities that exist among you. I've seen walls breaking down and bridges being built. I've seen a real appreciation and deep respect for each other's talents and strengths, and the beginnings of the team members leveraging these where it makes sense. I've seen genuine trust, not 'politics', taking its proper place. As we've heard many times before – 'We are all under construction.'

Several have asked me what drives my thinking and courses of action. You can get a bit of an insight into this in the Bible – The book of Romans, Chapter 12, verses 14-21."

Not all commented back to me on the letter, but most did. All were positive with one SET member, in reference to the scripture from Romans, saying, "For me that's aspirational."

My point is that while we are "fearfully and wonderfully made" by our Heavenly Father, in this life we all are truly "under construction." I trust you will soon pray the Psalms and find the peace and victory that I was blessed with last year.