

Turning Stumbling Blocks into Stepping Stones

Acts 20:22-24 (The Message)

How would you describe somebody who was an accomplished pianist at age 10, a professional organist at age 11, had compositions published at age 13, and was a member of the Royal Court musical staff at age 14? Privileged? Born with a silver spoon in his mouth? Hardly! Ludwig van Beethoven was a black-haired, swarthy-complexioned, pot-marked boy who endured taunts and name calling in his home town along the Rhine River, which was an area of blond-haired, fair-skinned children. His alcoholic father decided that Ludwig was going to support him so he made him a slave to the keyboard. Looking back, Beethoven couldn't recall a single blissful moment of childhood happiness. In his 20's he encountered deafness. When he could no longer play, he turned to composing and inspired the greats like Brahms, Wagner, and Schubert. Yet, when he was on his death bed Ludwig smiled and said, "I shall hear in heaven."

Sometimes our stumbling blocks seem so large but with Christ they can be just stepping stones.

I. The world may _____ you, but it cannot _____ you.

A. What happens in you is more important than what happens _____ you.

B. Paul stated that he knew that this world will _____ us difficulty.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

C. When you look to Jesus as your role model and draw strength from Him each day, He will give you _____ that's needed to overcome life.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

II. When life knocks you down, _____ stay down.

A. Everybody gets knocked down; winners are just the ones who _____ back up.

B. If you pray and look hard enough, you will find good _____ in every adversity.

C. The difference between winners and losers is their ability to turn stumbling _____ into stepping _____.

Conclusion

1. There is an _____ extravagant generosity of God.

2. What matters most is to _____ the job God started.

3. Do the very best you know how and do it to the _____.

4. God's Word _____ has a way.