

There's sNOW Excuse

Our community has just endured a winter storm that blanketed the entire East Coast. Although the accumulation of snow here was limited, sleet and freezing rain created layers of a wintry mix, turning our roads to compacted ice. Road crews concentrated on the main roads, so driving in residential areas was tough going. Schools were closed and almost all community events were cancelled. Mail delivery ceased for three days, and the newspaper was old news when finally delivered, several days late. Everyone was told to stay home and be safe. People did.

The question I raise at times like this is, should we hunker down or, instead, find different ways to be productive? If we hibernate on the sofa for days we might recharge our batteries, but lose all momentum to get things done. Even if we heed travel warnings, there are other options. We can work from home. If church is cancelled, we can spend quality time with the Lord reading His Word and in prayer. It may be time to do some inside backburner projects that have been waiting for uninterrupted time. If there is someone struggling, you can talk with them over the phone; chances are they will be home, too.



At times like this, God provides us with different opportunities to do things for Him. *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28).*

I know that my days on earth are limited. We all have an unknown number of days to do something with our life. When I wake up in the morning I want to do what I can for the people in my path. I want to take advantage of the abilities and time God has given me. He has gifted me with these for a reason – so that I will use them to help others.

We often get the opportunity to babysit and spend time with our granddaughter. At the age of 8 months we love watching her head, always looking around to see what is happening. Abigail is eagerly looking to see what everyone is doing, and, yes, what she can get into. We take joy in her zeal for life and all its possibilities. She resists taking a nap because she might miss something. To her, a snowy day is an opportunity to experience something new.

Just like a baby's quest for life, we can have a quest to serve God, by not letting obstacles prevent us from doing something. Snow storms and cancellations are not in our control, but what we do with the time the Lord gives us clearly is our decision. Don't let outside influences stifle your goal to serve the Lord. Instead, show God your commitment to overcome the obstacles and find a different way to serve God that day. He'll reward your effort and commitment for whatever you do in His Name.

Make it a goal for there to be sNOW excuse to give God your best effort, and He will bless your effort.

Question: How do you react to the temptation to make excuses for not doing what you should be doing?

Scripture: *Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans (Proverbs 16:3).*

Prayer: Heavenly Father. We thank you for not being a fair-weathered God. You carry us through the storms of life if we trust in you. Give us the strength to persevere in the difficult times and remain true to our commitment to serve you. Amen.