

Reach New Peaks



**“The wicked have set their traps for me along your path,
but I will not turn from your commandments” Psalm 119
(NLT)**

Apparently Not

One of my favorite cartoon sagas is the classic Road Runner series. Endlessly inventive, Wile E. Coyote will do anything for a roadrunner dinner. Somehow, he knows which way Road Runner will go in advance. A “genius”, he’s well versed in enemy tactics, top of the list being to lay traps right along the path his prey is expected to travel. Your enemy, far more formidable, knows even better. Beware, he has laid traps in your path!

But, if God has given you the path to follow (your Life Mission) and you

have committed it and yourself fully to him, isn't he supposed clear all of the obstacles?

As the Psalmist writes, apparently not.

A Silver Lining

The battle you were born into in is high stakes, beyond saving your own life. Your enemy knows that by carrying out your Life Mission, many other lives will be impacted and God's kingdom plan will prosper. He's more desperate than Wile E., far craftier, and evil beyond imagination.

"Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour." The Apostle Peter | 1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)

I'm sure you're quite familiar with the gist of this verse, but who more than Peter? Leery, he had heard Jesus speak of the enemy many times, yet he still fell into Satan's trap... many times! Recall one such trap. King Herod Agrippa, having already run the apostle James through with a sword, had Peter arrested, thrown into a heavily guarded cell, chained to soldiers... how could he escape the grip of such a deep trap?

In the cartoon, most of Wile E.'s ideas backfired humorously. Also, Road Runner was no bird brain. He often countered cleverly with a blast of speed, by flattening the coyote with a truck or sending a bomb back at his adversary. On the other hand, as clever as we may be, we are no match for our enemy's deception.

Trying to do some good, a small "disappointment" tips us... no big deal, right? The next thing we know we're spiraling. Our enemy's traps are the real deal. What's more, our sovereign God allows us to fall in. Seems bleak with so much against us, but there is a silver lining!

Though the Lord has not promised us a path with no traps, he has promised to help us overcome them so he can be glorified.

“Suddenly, there was a bright light in the cell, and an angel of the Lord stood before Peter. The angel struck him on the side to awaken him and said, “Quick! Get up!” And the chains fell off his wrists. Then the angel told him, “Get dressed and put on your sandals.” And he did. “Now put on your coat and follow me,” the angel ordered.” Acts 12 7-8 (NLT)

Look what he did with Peter... imagine the testimony of everyone gathered at Mary's house! This trap became a launchpad for huge kingdom growth.

Are You in a Trap?

Surprisingly, as powerful and crafty as our enemy is, his blows are often subtle. Could you be trapped even now?

One tell-tale sign of being trapped is experiencing meaninglessness. That small disappointment, an unanswered prayer, turns your focus. You fade from God...slowly drifting, drifting... drifting.

“Everything is meaningless,” says the Teacher, “completely meaningless!” What do people get for all their hard work under the sun? King Solomon | Ecclesiastes 1:2-3 (NLT)

Soon everything seems meaningless. The futility of life, that tiring cycle that goes round and round and round, stands stark. Brokenness everywhere... why bother? Yourself saved, you believe that Christ has overcome the world...well, you're pretty sure at least.

Transformed into a Gift

Having come through a trap like this recently, I appreciate why God allows our enemy to place them in our paths. What's more motivating than a

harsh reminder of the meaninglessness of our fallen world, life under the sun?

A majority of people know nothing beyond this broken world. Hopeless! Without the trap, could you evoke what it was like to live with no hope? Such a reminder reignites a passion for those who are scrambling, hopelessly confused.

Coach's Question:

Look at the people around you, imagine their view, what hope do their actions convey?

Like Peter's imprisonment, if you receive your trap with gratitude, the Lord will transform it into a gift.

"We escaped like a bird from a hunter's trap. The trap is broken, and we are free! Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." Psalm 124:7-8 (NLT)

When trapped, ask the Lord for full exposure so you receive its entire value. Let its impact settle deep into your soul. When he's finished his work in you, look up and you'll see... the trap is broken! Now he can lead you into your life's work with fresh vengeance and you'll be ready to...

Reach New Peaks

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

When trapped, I solicit its entire value, then look up to advance my Life Mission

“And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.”

The Apostle Paul | Philippians 1:6 (NLT)



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