



GO AHEAD AND JUMP!!

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

Prov.3:5-6

So, have I mentioned that my daughter, Courtney and I have recently become vendors at the Oregon Antique Mall in Oregon City? I just might be a bit excited about it! We're having fun being creative and using our display and decorating skills. For weeks before we took the plunge we prayed that God would direct our steps and close doors in front of us if we were not to proceed in this venture. In spite of some challenges initially, we were ready when the store re-opened after a week of closure. We told ourselves (and were told) to be patient about selling for the first couple of months; January and February are especially bad months for retail sales.

After the first 8 days, we went in to do some rearranging and “fluffing” to find that we HAD sold some things! We were so excited, giving each other high fives and I quite literally jumped up and down. At that point, the manager said something to the effect of “Don't get too excited because a) it might not go on and/or b) your excitement could “jinx” your success.” It was a dampening moment I'll tell you but we decided to go ahead and be excited in spite of her warnings.

“Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God.” Psa.43:5

“Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld His love from me!” Psa.66:20

Later, as I was mulling over that conversation, I couldn't help but think, “Wait a minute. Didn't we pray for God's direction? (Yes.) Why should we be affected by a warning that is in direct contradiction of God's blessing? (We shouldn't.) Wasn't that “good” news we

received an answer to prayer?" (Yes.) How quickly we sometimes allow the enemy to steal our joy. In fact, we are a lot of times quicker at that than we are at receiving and acknowledging the blessings and answers to prayer. Ouch!

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10

A challenge for me and for you: FIRST, acknowledge God's blessings and answers to prayer. THEN, we won't even hear the enemy trying to discourage or dampen. The enemy doesn't deserve our time or energy!

"Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from Him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will not be shaken." Psa.52:5-6

***Blessings on your week!
Georgia***