



## Take Your Time

Winter is wheeling its power to slow us down! In the last couple of weeks we have seen below zero temperatures and freezing rain. Now that is typical Wisconsin winter weather, isn't it? One thing the Wisconsin winter has always been able to do for me is slow me down. The ice and snow demand, Take Your Time.

As I backed out of the garage one morning I could immediately feel the wheels slide and I knew instinctively that I would need to make a gradual turn in order to keep the back end of my vehicle from sliding into our mailbox. My country roads were covered with ice and topped with a dusting of snow perfectly hiding the black ice. I know black ice can be dangerous. So, I took my time.

Arriving at work I opened the door and cautiously stepped onto the pavement of the parking lot. I suspected the black ice was hiding there as well. I took my time.

Driving or walking too fast in slippery conditions is simply not worth the risk of sliding into another vehicle or falling and breaking something. Mishaps can happen even when you are cautious, but to increase the risk and the likelihood by rushing in these kinds of conditions never makes sense. I took my time.

How does this fit into a spiritual message? Trust me I'm getting there, I'm just taking my time! As I shuffled into work and again as I shuffled out of work I asked God to keep me safe. I asked for warmth against the whistling wind. Rather than rushing out on my own I took the time to invite God to be present with me in those moments.

That same week I had a chance to see a movie titled, To Joey with Love, which is a true story about a woman of deep faith. I don't want to tell you the story because you may want to see the movie yourself, but one of the amazing things about her story was her (their) desire to slow their lives down. Their decision to take their time doing little day to day tasks with great awe and wonder was inspiring.

The next day there was more of the same Wisconsin weather, but I entered the day with a heightened awareness as I shuffled into work. Life isn't about how fast you can get it done! It is about how

you live it. When we rush into our day, through the day and through our evenings we risk missing the most important parts of the day, the simplicities of life that make it worthwhile.

How can we experience and appreciate life fully if we are always rushing to the next thing, if we don't take time to embrace the moment? It's risky. We could misunderstand our purpose in life if we constantly run from one thing to the next? We could miss our call to service if we are too busy checking things off our to-do list. We could miss the joy found in the everydayness of life. Like black ice waiting to trip us up, rushing through our days can trip us up and cause us to lose sight of what is truly important in life.

We must take our time, invite God into our daily activities and be grateful we have dishes to wash, clothes to wash, a car to clean, a yard to mow, mouths to feed, animals to care for, gardens to tend, and oh so much more. We will never know the beautiful message that lies in each opportunity to be grateful if we don't take our time.

My spirit cries out, Take Your Time! Going faster or doing more does not equal going deeper. The only way to go deeper and develop a stronger spiritual connection is to take your time.

### Questions to ponder:

- How can I slow my life down?
- In what ways will taking my time improve my spiritual connection with God?
- What are my favorite tasks?
- How can I be grateful for the tasks I dislike?

May God's Peace be with You,  
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