



Persistence of Vision

Failure is the path of least persistence ~ Unknown

Back in the days when I attended high school (which was not before recorded history as my sons would lead you to believe) we learned of an optical phenomenon termed *persistence of vision*. This, persistence of vision, is a phenomenon whereby the eye retains a visual image for a fraction of a second after the source has been removed. It is this phenomenon that made motion pictures possible by tricking our minds to see not the individual frames of the film but perceive it as motion. This phenomenon occurs when the retina "captures" a snapshot if you will of a bright light or image. If you've ever been in a dark room, turned the light on, then turned the light off and closed your eyes only to see the image of the room as if it were burned onto the retina ~ that's persistence of vision. It lasts only a moment but when you first close your eyes it seems as if you can still see the objects in the room - especially those that were lighter in color or highly reflective.

I was reminded of this when I entered a local shop with the owner for a Saturday morning men's group that he hosts at his store before regular business hours. As he walked through the rooms turning the lights on as we entered and then off again as we exited each room it became quite dark for a moment and my eyes captured a snapshot of the room and I could still see the stairway momentarily ~ then it faded.

It brought to mind how I was once in the dark and then I was shown the light ~ The light of Christ and the gift of salvation He freely offers. If I am to continue in faith and assurance I must learn to develop persistence of vision. Like the optical phenomenon above ~ the image in my mind's eye will only last for a short time if I allow my flesh to turn me away from that light. So in order for me to develop persistence of vision I must continuously look upon the source of the light... Christ.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. ~ Hebrews 12:1-3 NIV

We need to encourage each other daily so that we too can run the race before us and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. There are many distractions and detours but isn't it a

great comfort to know that Christ knows what we are facing because He once stood in our shoes?

May we develop persistence of vision as we seek to keep our eyes fixed on Him!