

# Speedbumps



By: Becky Allen

“I will not marry a preacher! I will not be a preacher’s wife!” This was my adamant reply to my fiancé upon talk of him becoming a gospel preacher. That was nowhere in the line of sight for my life. I stuck to my guns and I did not marry a preacher.

Twelve years later, here I am...married to a preacher and therefore, a preacher’s wife. How did this happen? One year after being married, my husband draws me in hook, line, and sinker and convinces me to let him follow his calling. After all, who am I to stand in God’s way? My well laid plans...gone!

My life was planned out to attend Boston University, work in some high rise office building, live in a fancy apartment, and truly be independent. Looking back, I just laugh! This is nowhere near the person that I am! What was I thinking? Some may look at this and agree that I was crazy, but I know there are some out there who may have some of the same goals.

Had I gone down this other path, I would not be a Christian today. I owe a lot of thanks and praise to God for putting some “speed bumps” in my way. What were they? Falling in love, getting married, becoming a Christian, and having children. The modern woman of today would say, “UGH!!” But, little do they know what they are missing out on!

Many times when we are young or even now we make our plans for the future and put up such a fuss about sticking to them. Some have the attitude like the rich fool in Luke 12:16-21. They are ready to build those bigger barns and store up for themselves treasure. They are gung ho and ready to go! They feel they can conquer anything that gets in their way and overcome any temptation that could turn their attention elsewhere. As far as they can see, there are no speed bumps or detours ahead.



Don't get me wrong - we need to have focus and purpose in our lives. This is a good thing whether you are speaking physically or spiritually. But, sometimes we need speed bumps to slow us down. We can be humbly brought to our knees like the rich fool when told by Christ that his soul would be required of him that night! What a slap in the face! This man had everything he wanted and more, but the one thing he needed most, he lacked. He was focused more on his physical life than his spiritual. How many times do we do the same?

A detour can be just what many of us need. God can provide speed bumps to make us stop and think. They are needed so that we can reevaluate the direction we are moving in. We need to ask ourselves if our plans are God's will or ours. Would it be to His glory? Where will it put me on the scale of eternity?

You see, sometimes we think we know what is best. We forget how "small" we really are in the whole scheme of things. We are told in James 4:14, "...For what is your life: It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away." (NKJV) Many times we do not truly put our lives in God's hands. We want to be in control and feel powerful over our own being. What we as Christian women need to remember is that God is the one who is in total control. He is our Creator and Master. It is because of Him that we have any hope and true happiness.

We owe so much to our Lord, but often we get blinded by the "whatifs," "couldvebeens," and "whathappeneds" instead of looking at what we do have. We do not need to evaluate our worth by how far up the ladder we have climbed at work, how much money we make, how many social activities we are involved in, or how well known our name is. Instead, our glory can be found in our unwavering faith in God the Father.

The plans I had long ago are very different from the ones I have today, and I am ever so glad. Keep Isaiah 55:8-9 in mind when planning your day, week, month, and years. Ask God for guidance and peace of mind for your future. Put Him and His will on the dashboard and you will always know which exit to take.

