

ONLY ON HGTV

“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of for me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” Phil.3:12-14

It seems as if this bathroom project has gone on for a very long time. Even after the builders left, there was one little thing after another that needed to be done. Don't get me started on the fiasco of buying a shower curtain rod or finding the right medicine cabinet. I confess that I have succumbed to crankiness more than once over these little things. And that's what they are: little things. Nothing big or earth-shattering, just that "finishing-up" kind of stuff that happens at the end of any project.

I had a picture of a completed bathroom in my mind and it was perfect. The problem is that perfection was in my mind only, not a reality. I wasn't seeing the little things that happen constantly during a remodel to upset and irritate you. I had an HGTV finish in mind and it wasn't turning out that way. See, the problem is that during a half hour TV show, you see the "before" and thirty minutes later, the "after". They don't usually show the homeowners tearing their hair out or screaming into their pillows. There might be some moments of "gee, I don't know how this will look" but never showing anyone wanting to run into a wall. That kind of perfection is only on TV and isn't the reality of life here. We *"press on"* toward a True Reality, the only Real Perfection; that Prize that Christ bought for us with His life.

I have really had to get myself in hand several times or I'm tempted to bite the heads off of innocent bystanders (look out customers in Home Depot or Lowes!). I have had to talk strongly to myself about being content and satisfied and appreciating the fact that I can have a lovely, new bathroom (or, that I have a bathroom at all!). I have to *"forget what is behind and strain toward what is ahead"* which includes repenting of my attitude and letting go of that "perfect" picture in my mind (which has practically nothing to do with reality). This is the battle we fight every day: to know what is *really* important (eternally) and to *"press on"* and *"strain toward"* *that* goal and not the distractions of the "little things" that really don't matter.

I have a picture in my mind of God sometimes just shaking His head at me and saying, "Oh, my child; the things you do to yourself when your focus is off!" In spite of all that, though, He still *"calls me heavenward"* every day and reminds me in a multitude of ways that in spite of my imperfection, He doesn't give up on me.

We've put up the last towel rack and finally have everything into drawers and cupboards. Suddenly, everything came together and I had my HGTV moment. It really is as "perfect" and it can be but nothing like life will be in heaven one day. There's a hymn that ends with "What a day, glorious day, that will be" and that will truly be a perfect ending, not just an HGTV moment.

Blessings as you "press on",
Georgia