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What Really Matters

Dear Readers,

This week I've been reading books that I don't normally read. I read a book on finance and investment. I've also been reading a book by Anne Lamott. The book is called "Grace (Eventually): Thoughts on Faith" (Riverhead Books, 2007).

On page 50 & 51 she writes: *"That's me, trying to make any progress at all with family, in work, relationships, self-image: scootch, scootch, stall: scootch, stall, catastrophic reversal; bog, bog, scootch. I wish grace and healing were more abracadabra kinds of things; also, that delicate silver bells would ring to announce grace's arrival. But no, it's clog and slog and scootch, on the floor, in silence, in the dark.*

"I suppose that if you were snatched out of the mess, you'd miss the lesson; the lesson is the slog. I grew up thinking the lessons should be more like von Trapp children: more marionettes, more dirndls and harmonies. But no; it's slog, bog, scootch."

I can identify with her view, and I bet you can too. I think we all want the spiritual life to be...well, easy. We want this encounter with God to make things simple and uncomplicated. Yet, it seems, the closer we get to God the more complicated things are. How is that?

Could it be that in getting closer to God we are really seeing our life in a more complete way? Could it be that a good amount of our living has taken place on the great plains of denial? It could be...

...but what really matters is the incredible experience along the way with all the scootching and bogging and stalling that happens. In all of it, there is this still small voice which echoes the Spirit of God whispering over our existence, "See, I am making





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all things new." (check out John 13:31-35 and Revelation 21:1-6).

Blessings,
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