



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Out of the Frying Pan...

JANUARY 12, 2012

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Have you seen any of the Mission Impossible movies? Agent Ethan Hunt, played by Tom Cruise, is the lead IMF character in the series. And what is the IMF? It is not the International Monetary Fund! It is the "Impossible Mission Force".

As you enter the 2012 Legislative Session, you might be feeling like a member of Hunt's IMF.

OK, I admit, it probably isn't that bad. You are a Leader. You are a political Leader. The word "impossible" does not exist in your vocabulary. Come hell or high water you are on your mission and "*It shall be done*" is the only way you operate.

Maybe words like "chaos" or "frenzy" are a bit more applicable to the next four or five months of your life. One senator has said that people can understand the idea of things being chaotic in the midst of a political campaign but once you win it is *then* the real chaos begins.

How are you going to handle it?

The answer to that question will be determined by a number of factors. Here are four:

- **Why did you run for office?**
The Apostle Paul, inspired by God's Holy Spirit, wrote in Philippians 2:3, "Let nothing be done out of selfish ambition or conceit" and in verse 4 he said, "Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." In other words, are you in office because you are on a power trip? Did you run *to serve* your constituents or *to be served*? *Motives matter.*
- **What will you do to maintain the health and welfare of your spouse and children?**
These are the most important people in your life. So important that the Lord says that if we don't take care of our own household we have denied the faith and are worse than an unbeliever (1 Timothy 5:8)! They were behind you during your campaign. They have stood by, usually silently and in the background, while you do your job. How will you give them the time and focus they *and you* need and deserve from now until the session ends in May? *Family matters.*
- **How will you maintain your physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health?**
Successful people know that in five years they will be just like the people they associate with, the books they read, the things they watch and the food they eat. If you keep doing what you're currently doing, where will you be in five years? Is that what you want? Proverbs 17:22 says, "A happy heart is good medicine and a cheerful mind works healing, but a broken spirit dries up the bones." *Health matters.*
- **Who do you have in your life as a confidante, a mentor, a coach, a friend?**
Proverbs 24:6 tells us, "for by wise guidance you can wage your war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory." Everyone needs trusted friends, coaches, confidantes and advisors. Who are yours? *Relationships matter.*

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him/her, ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach and it will be given to him/her. . . But let him/her ask in faith, with no doubting..." - James 1:1-8, 3:13-18