



Anchor of the Soul
P.O. Box 401
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So It Couldn't Be Done

Someone said it couldn't be done,
But he with a chuckle replied
That maybe it couldn't, but he would be one
Who couldn't say no 'til he tried.

So he started right in with a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or grumbling,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it can't be done,
There are thousands to prophesy failure.
There are thousands to point out one by one
The dangers that wait to assail you.

But just buckle right in with a bit of a grin,
Take off your coat and go to it;
Just start in, and sing as you tackle the thing
That can't be done, and you'll do it.

-- Author Unknown.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."
- Paul the apostle, Phil. 4:13

"Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God" (2 Cor. 3:5)

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." (Isa. 40:31)

Don't Quit Praying! Luke 18

Jacob Hudgins

"Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart" (Luke 18:1)

Jesus knows us. He knows our weaknesses and tendencies. He knows our strengths and successes. A warning from the mouth of one who knows us so well should carry much weight. So what does Jesus warn us about in times when we "lose heart"? "Men ought always to pray and not lose heart" (Luke 18:1). Don't quit praying! Jesus tells a parable to illustrate the principle (Luke 18:2-5). A widow requests justice from a judge, who for a while refuses to act. However, the widow's persistence finally leads him to avenge her "lest by her continual coming she weary me" (Luke 18:5). We must learn the lesson well from this determined widow: don't quit praying!

Don't quit praying because God hears!

Often our discouragement stems from a feeling of inadequacy in our prayer: God hasn't helped me, and I'm not even sure my prayers go higher than the ceiling. Never forget that as long as we are living as we should (1 Pet 3:12), God hears our prayers! There is no question this judge heard the widow's request—the text says he simply "would not for a while" (v. 4) do what she asked. Further, when Jesus applies this parable to our prayers to God, He asks, "And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?" God always hears the cries and requests of His children! Though we may think God has forgotten about us when our prayers are not immediately answered the way we'd like, we must never lose heart! God speaks directly to such a mindset and says "men ought always to pray and not lose heart" (v. 1)! Don't quit praying; God hears!

Don't quit praying because God rewards persistence!

What finally got the judge to act? "yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me" (v. 5). The continual, persistent asking of this widow got her what she desired. Can the same be said of our prayers? Her persistence made this woman more powerful and influential than the greatest of men, whom the judge had no regard for (v. 2, 4). Making the application, Jesus speaks of the elect of God "who

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cry out day and night to Him”(v. 7), adding that as a result God “will avenge them speedily” (v. 8). An earlier parable of Jesus tells of a man going to his friend at midnight to ask for food, and only receiving it because of his continued asking. Of that man, Jesus says, “I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs” (Luke 11:8). Like the characters in these parables, God rewards persistence in prayer! Please understand that God is not saying that we can nag Him into giving us whatever our heart desires. Rather, when we genuinely need something and continually trust that He is the way to receive it, He is more likely to give it to us. If we ask for something from God once, then forget about it, do we really need it or truly trust He will provide it? Remember, “The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much”(James 5:16), but the occasional, haphazard prayer of a lukewarm man accomplishes little. Don't quit praying! God rewards persistence!

Don't quit praying because God desires faith!

Isn't it faith that buoys us through the times when we lose heart and strengthens us to keep looking to the Father? Despite the fact that our prayers might not be answered-or answered in a way we prefer-can we keep asking and trusting? Jesus, having told the parable, laments, “Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”(Luke 18:8). Faith is God's desire. When cancer has taken our loved one, can we pray that God will heal someone else with cancer, truly believing He can and will? When we have failed in temptation so many times, can we ask Him for help and forgiveness, truly believing we can overcome with His help? When life is hard, when money is tight, when people are angry, when we can't see our way, do we trust and look to our God? “But without faith it is impossible to please Him”(Heb 11:6). God knows about all that life contains, but still desires us to trust Him! Take your problems to the Lord. “casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you”(1 Pet 5:7). Whatever you do, don't quit praying! God wants you to believe!

Remember that stubborn widow-a character Jesus used to illustrate our stubborn devotion and trust to God. A dogged determination to appeal to our Father will be rewarded. Jesus knows us better than anyone, and His prescription is more prayer. Don't lose heart! Don't quit praying!

Via Expository Files 15.1; January 2008

The Wounds of a Friend

Pat Farish

"Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy." (Prov. 27:6)

There is an erroneous notion afoot, that friendship precludes inflicting of pain. Where such a notion is held, the relationship under consideration must be affected. A parent may say, "I love my child too much to ever punish him/her for disobedience". The child thus unrestrained may be seen by other children to be extremely fortunate: "look at the liberty *he* has: nobody tells *him* what to do, nobody warms *his* backside for disobedience, etc." Such observations reflect the immature mind of children - Tom Sawyer's envious evaluation of Huck Finn's circumstance inevitably comes to mind - but, the mind matured by the leading of the Holy Spirit understands that such an absence of restraint and correction indicates not love, but supreme *indifference*.. The Hebrews writer asked, " ... what son is there whom his father chasteneth not? But if ye are without chastening, whereof all have been made partakers, then are ye bastards and not sons" (Hebrews 12:7b, 8). The point is: that parent who refuses to restrain his child, claiming to be motivated by love, actually exhibits the rejection of indifference. The *only* love shown in such is the parent's self-love, that does not wish to be bothered by such unpleasantness as occurs in chastening.

Parallel to this is our behavior with a friend who is going astray, morally or doctrinally. Words that will bring conviction of sin are the only words that can cause repentance. Such words should be chosen with utmost care, with the motive continually being the salvation of that friend. Truth so spoken is "truth in love"; but such truth is oftentimes unappreciated because it is unpleasant. The only words that can bring repentance, words of "truth in love", may well be painful words: painful to utter, painful to hear.

The painfulness of these words is the excuse advanced by some

realm of validity, what about all of the professed "Christian" faiths? There are hundreds, even thousands, of "Christian" churches. These are better known as denominations. Are these churches following God's way? Are they acceptable to God? Some might reason that since the denominations claim to represent Christianity then they **might be right but could be wrong**. How does a person determine whether these churches are following God's way? Remember, **you have to go to the revealed Word!** Does a person find a basis for these churches in the Bible? If so, then where is the passage that speaks of Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Catholics, etc? One can search high and low throughout God's book and they will find no more about these and other man made denominations than they do about the Buddhist, the Hindu, or the Muslim. Not only are these churches not mentioned in the Bible, but much that describes them is opposed to truth (e.g. their doctrines, various acts of worship, organization, etc.). With these facts in mind one should now be able to see that the denominations are likewise **a way that is wrong and cannot be right**.

Having now eliminated the denominations as a valid approach to following the ways of God where is one to turn? Once again, to know God's way **one must go to His revealed Word!** There and there alone one can find **a way that is right and cannot be wrong**. Though one does not read of the churches of men in God's Word they can read about a church belonging to Christ (Rom. 16:16), a church that He promised to build (Mt. 16:18), a church He purchased with His blood (Ac. 20:28). This church was established on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) shortly after Jesus arose from the dead. The gospel was preached that day and souls responded by repenting and being baptized for the forgiveness of sins (Ac. 2:38-41). These were then added by the Lord to His church (Ac. 2:47). They were not called Baptist, Methodist, or any other man-made name. They were simply Christians (Ac. 11:26; cf. 26:28; I Pet 4:16) comprising the church "of Christ" (Rom. 16:16). My friend, only in following God's Word do we find **a way that is right and cannot be wrong**. There is absolutely nothing wrong with just being a **Christian** and a part of **Christ's church!**

Martyrs, Continued

From Fox's Book of Martyrs

James the Great

The next martyr we meet with, according to St. Luke, in the History of the Apostles' Acts, was James the son of Zebedee, the elder brother of John, and a relative of our Lord; for his mother Salome was cousin-german to the Virgin Mary. It was not until ten years after the death of Stephen that the second martyrdom took place; for no sooner had Herod Agrippa been appointed governor of Judea, than, with a view to ingratiate himself with them, he raised a sharp persecution against the Christians, and determined to make an effectual blow, by striking at their leaders. The account given us by an eminent primitive writer, Clemens Alexandrinus, ought not to be overlooked; that, as James was led to the place of martyrdom, his accuser was brought to repent of his conduct by the apostle's extraordinary courage and undauntedness, and fell down at his feet to request his pardon, professing himself a Christian, and resolving that James should not receive the crown of martyrdom alone. Hence they were both beheaded at the same time. Thus did the first apostolic martyr cheerfully and resolutely receive that cup, which he had told our Savior he was ready to drink. Timon and Parmenas suffered martyrdom about the same time; the one at Philippi, and the other in Macedonia. These events took place A.D. 44.

Phillip

Was born at Bethsaida, in Galilee and was first called by the name of "disciple." He labored diligently in Upper Asia, and suffered martyrdom at Heliopolis, in Phrygia. He was scourged, thrown into prison, and afterwards crucified, A.D. 54.

February Bible Reading

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1 2 Chr. 20-23 Ac. 26	2 Study With Us! 7 PM	3 2 Chr. 24-27 Ac. 27	4 2 Chr. 28-30 Ac. 28	5 2 Chr. 31-33 Rom. 1
6 Worship With Us! 11 AM & 6:30 PM	7 2 Chr. 34 – Ez. 1 Rom. 2	8 Ez. 2-3 Rom. 3	9 Study With Us! 7 PM	10 Ez. 4-7 Rom. 4	11 Ez. 8-10 Rom. 5	12 Neh. 1-4 Rom. 6
13 Worship With Us! 11 AM & 6:30 PM	14 Neh. 5-7 Rom. 7	15 Neh. 8-10 Rom. 8	16 Study With Us! 7 PM	17 Neh. 11-12 Rom. 9	18 Neh. 13-Esth. 3 Rom. 10	19 Esth. 4-9 Rom. 11
20 Worship With Us! 11 AM & 6:30 PM	21 Esth. 10-Job 4 Rom. 12	22 Job 5-7 Rom. 13	23 Study With Us! 7 PM	24 Job 8-10 Rom. 14	25 Job 11-14 Rom. 15	26 Job 15-18 Rom. 16
27 Worship With Us! 11 AM & 6:30 PM	28 Job 19-21 1 Cor. 1					