

DON'T GET TIRED OF DOING GOOD

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9.

"Doing good" is a phrase that occurs frequently in the Bible. Christ "went about doing good." That means more than doing what is right. It involves caring for others, loving them, praying for them, serving them and helping them.

We are urged not to get tired of doing good. Sometimes we get tired in doing good. Strong though He was, even Christ got weary. But He was never weary of doing good. His spirit was never fatigued. He never lost heart. In the very act of helping people there was a deep source of satisfaction that banished His physical fatigue.

Once when Christ and His disciples were on a journey they were tired and hungry. He sat down to rest beside a well while the disciples went to a near-by town to buy food. A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. He saw in her face the lines of frustration and hopelessness, and at once engaged her in conversation. Before long He had released her from her hidden burden and opened to her the gates of new life. She rushed into the town with joy in her heart and brought her friends to Christ. Faith was kindled and lives were changed.

When the disciples returned they found that all signs of His fatigue had disappeared and wanted to know who had given Him food. He answered, "I have meat to eat that ye know not of. My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work."

As we look back on life we realize that the abiding springs of inner happiness do not lie in what the world calls success, but in the recollection of those whom we may have helped along the road of life or to whom we may have brought light in some deep darkness.

Knowing that we are liable to grow weary or get tired of doing good, God has given us this timely admonition. He exhorts to continue faithfully in the doing of beautiful things.

The duties of the Christian life are continuous. On this account there is always danger of our becoming weary, growing lax or ceasing in our well-doing. We need, therefore, the frequent reminder of our constant duty.

This text is a wonderful saying and a flashing diamond of beauty. This condensation of truth is so wonderfully filled with the meaning that only God can put into so few words.

A genuine Christian feels that he is where he is, and he is what he is, not for his own sake so much as for the sake of others. He is here to help and bless the world. The great revelation of Christianity was this, that human life might be made better, sweeter, and more wholesome. Weariness is growing tired under all those claims and duties and responsibilities which the Christian life lays upon us. To the Christian, life brings one long demand -- upon the substance, the time, the patience, the love and the faith. This demand must be recognized in the home, the church and the community.

As Christians we should rejoice in the besetting duties of life, in its unremitting calls and claims upon us. Not to rejoice in this life of ours is to be weary. We are weary in those hours when we do not like to think how much sorrow and how much need there are in the world about us, and that we might do something to reduce the bulk of human misery.

It is easy to begin to serve the Lord, but the real test comes in continuing. Many run well for God for a time, then they fail to continue doing so. Human nature seems to tire of everything sooner or later. Left to its own resources there is nothing of which our nature will not grow weary. In weariness we seek to reduce our exertion to the lowest point possible.

Much is said in the Bible about becoming discouraged, losing our spirit, morale, zeal and enthusiasm. There are so many things to cause spiritual depression and discouragement today. Worldliness, materialism, greed, sin and iniquity send their menacing floods upon us.

1. The condition of getting tired of doing good.

(1) It is prevalent.

(2) It is distressing.

The task over which we sing in the freshness of the morning becomes a burden to groan under when the evening finds us jaded and worn.

(3) It is injurious.

Weariness in well-doing makes one's work defective or ineffective.

2. The causes of getting tired of doing good.

There are various causes of weariness in well-doing.

(1) In ourselves.

a. Poor health.

b. Decline in vitality.

c. Physical exhaustion.

d. Lack of rest.

e. Unawareness of duty.

f. Lack of love.

g. Self-pity.

h. Lack of spirituality.

(2) In our work.

a. A friction with ungodly tendencies.

b. The opposition of the world.

c. A desire to avoid more exertion.

d. A lack of self-denial.

e. The monotony of work.

How much of our work lacks the glow of romance and the inspiration of heroism!

f. The ingratitude of people.

Ingratitude of those we strive to help is as common as it is detestable. Many nations have voiced their sense of the sin of ingratitude in striking proverbs. The Spanish have a saying, "Bring up a raven and it will peck out your eyes." The English have a saying, "Put a snake in your bosom, and when it is warm it will sting you." The world is filled with ingratitude. It lives on God's bounty, and yet refuses to own His power or accept His love. All of us have felt the deadening influence of ingratitude. However, we must do good from a higher motive than merely to secure the gratitude of those who are benefitted. We must do it for Christ's sake. He laid down His life for us apart from any gratitude on our part.

g. Lack of apparent success.

It is only natural that we should look for desirable results from our efforts. Within certain limits this feeling is right. If we are guided by the Lord's counsel and actuated by His Spirit, we cannot miss success, whether we see it that way or not. No good word is ever wasted. No good deed is ever lost.

h. The people needing our help.

There is so much to be done. There is no possibility of doing it all. As you think of how much misery, sin and want there is in the world, you may say, "After all, how little I can do!" Your danger will be in actually letting yourself off without doing anything.

I. A Plea.

"And let us not be weary in well doing." Such weariness is a very prevalent and distressing condition. What are some of the forms of well-doing?

1. Fighting our sins.

Over and over we need to fight the battles against evil, both within and without. It is an encouraging fact that the victory is certain if we keep on fighting.

2. Using the means of grace.

By using all of the means of grace at our disposal, we shall receive adequate strength for service as well as increasing and overflowing joy in it.

3. Working for the Lord.

This may be done by preaching, teaching, witnessing, praying, etc. Soul-winning is one field of effort in which Christians seem especially liable to lack in continuity of interest and effort. We warm up to this all-important work only now and then.

In our text Paul was urging the Galatian Christians not to let the spirit of weariness in well-doing creep over them. We, too, should prod ourselves, rally our spirits, encourage our hearts and be persistent in well-doing.

II. A Promise.

"For in due season we shall reap." In the event that you become baffled by the slowness of human progress, disheartened by the meagerness of results, or appalled by the terrible setbacks that come to good causes, just remember that if you will continue faithful you will reap in God's own good time. Even though you may not see the results of your work now, the promise is certain to be fulfilled.

III. A Proviso.

"If we faint not." We must not faint and give up, but carry on for the Lord, ever keeping our eyes on the reaping time. God will provide the strength which we need for the task which He has assigned to us. As Moffatt translated it, "Let us never grow tired of doing what is right." Our text is a divine exhortation to avoid fainting and to carry on for God in a glorious fashion.