

Don't Grow Weary in Doing Good
2 Thessalonians 3:13

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Introduction: Last year, I issued a challenge to you. We have called the challenge “Do Something.” The Biblical basis for the challenge comes from Titus 3:14 And our people must also learn to devote themselves to good works for cases of urgent need, so that they will not be unfruitful. (Titus 3:14 HCSB) Or, as the NIV renders it, “Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs and not live unproductive lives.” (Titus 3:14 NIV)

We said about this verse: “Doing something is the **call** of the Gospel, especially when focused on **critical needs**, and our doing something always **counts** and **costs**.”

With many of you starting your commitment or trying to figure out how to begin, I want to offer you some encouragement today. It may not sound like encouragement in the beginning, but hang in there just a moment.

You see, the greatest challenge is that you are going to grow weary, grow tired of doing. You want proof? You are the greatest proof. The past attempts to do something new offer the proof that this is not going to be easy.

So, where's the encouragement, right? Here it is.

Text: Brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. (2 Thessalonians 3:13)

A little earlier in this letter, we read...

May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal encouragement and good hope by grace,¹⁷ encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good work and word. (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)

So, think with me in this text about three keys to not growing weary.

Look back to the Person of Jesus for our example.

One of the issues of this text and one of the issues of our lives is that not everyone is joining us in doing something. Not everyone who ought to be with us is doing something. In the text, immediately preceding 3:13 is the indication that not all are joining in doing something. In fact, they seem to be obstacles.

But Paul begins to address those who are ready to persevere. This is an individual commitment.

Remember the words of the hymn “I have decided to follow Jesus?” One of the verses says, “Though none go with me, I still will follow.”

And, we find our example in Jesus. In verse 16 of 2 Thessalonians 2, we encounter, “May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who loved us...” His love for us compels us to not grow weary. The example of His sacrifice compels us to not grow weary. The example of His suffering compels us to not grow weary. He gave us His all, what can we give to Him that will compare?

Tom was weary. He had every reason to lose heart. Tom knew the meaning of having to persevere through the heart aches of life. Tom’s father died when he was four years old. Because his mother could not afford to raise him, she took him to an orphanage. Eventually she “reclaimed” him. He graduated 44th out of his high school class of 44. He decided to join the Army because he heard that he could get a \$2,000 bonus just for signing up. Not until he filed the paper work did he realize that he signed up for the Marines instead of the Army. No bonus! After service he and his brother bought a small restaurant in their hometown for \$500. Not long after, he bought his brother out by giving his brother his Volkswagon. Not long after, the restaurant burned.

Maybe that is not exactly your story, but it sounds close. Maybe your reason for weariness and losing heart is more related to spiritual things.

Whatever your situation is today, this text is a call to perseverance.

What about Tom? He kept on persevering. Tom is Tom Monaghan. The little restaurant? He turned it into a restaurant that would specialize in one thing. He further decided that he would specialize not only in the product, but the delivery of that product. In 1998, Tom sold his little Pizza business called Domino’s for 1 billion dollars.

Look forward to the Return of Jesus for our encouragement.

The second major issue in the background of this text is that some in the Christian community were so certain that the return of Christ was imminent that they had stopped working. They decided “What is the use?” Listen, we need to be captured with immediacy of the return of Christ, but there is not one note in the Bible that this belief ought to prompt us to do nothing. In fact, the absolute opposite is the case. The impending coming of the return of Christ ought to speed up our life’s activity, not slow it down.

So, we find our encouragement to not grow weary in the return of Christ. This is the “eternal encouragement.”

One of the analogies of the New Testament regarding the return of Christ is a wedding. I often get a front and center seat at a family’s preparation for a wedding, and it is impressive. Most families start months ahead of time. Then, as the big day approaches, things can get incredibly hectic. Three questions dominate the preparation for a wedding and should dominate the preparation for the return of Christ.

1. Is everything ready?
2. Have all the guests been invited?
3. Is the bride in love with the groom?

People want to know all the time whether these are the last days. Whether these are the last days or not, only God knows, but here is what we can know: These are our last days! These are the only days that I have.

This has to encourage us to never grow weary!

Look above to the Power of Jesus for our empowerment.

These verses are a prayer. We start out this year asking God to do more in us than we could ever do ourselves. If we have committed to Him what does not require His help, we have not committed enough. If we seek only to depend on ourselves, we will get what we can do. But, if we depend on Him, we can look forward to what He can do through us.

Here is one of my favorite Bible passages—2 Corinthians 12:9-10.

9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (NKJV)

The focus here is on the power of God. There is ...

1. The Power of the Cross of Christ

1 Corinthians 1:18

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (NKJV)

2. The Power of the Resurrection of Christ

Philippians 3:10

10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death (NKJV)

Ephesians 1:19-20

19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, (NKJV)

3. The Power of the Intercession of Christ

Romans 8:26-27

26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. (NKJV)

Rom 8:34

34 It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. (NKJV)

4. The Power of the Love of Christ

Romans 8:35-39

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written:

*"For Your sake we are killed all day long;
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."*

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NKJV)

5. The Power of the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:8

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (NKJV)

6. The Power of the Promises of God

2 Corinthians 1:20-21

20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. (NKJV)