

Don't Weary

Harmony M.B.C., July 17, 2011 (Morning)

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

One of the greatest pitfalls confronting those who make a profession of faith in Christ is the great temptation to grow discouraged and faint. There are a thousand things that can start a person down this road. There are thousands of people who head down this road which is littered with the wasted lives of many who have become hit and run victims of the reckless drivers who travel that road. When a person heads down that road it is only a short time before they become a casualty. In fact, they are a casualty when they begin the trip down that road, because they have fallen victim to the very human weaknesses which causes them to weary in well doing and to faint because of it.

I. What are the symptoms of becoming weary in well doing?

- Losing interest in trying to do good things
- Discovering that you aren't finding many reasons to be gracious or helpful
- Then, starting to entertain idea of being mean
 - ▶ (like the coyotes we trap which are wandering around the edge of the sheep pasture; they haven't captured and killed any sheep yet, but they "have that look in their eye.")
- Next: not caring or having any compassion for others
- Next: being mean and uncharitable (not just thinking about it, but acting it out)
- Next: **looking for reasons** to be ungracious
- Last: doing evil and being defensive and self-righteous about it

II. How do we deal with the threat of wearying in well doing and the fainting that threatens?

- Realize where this condition has originated
 - ▶ First, realize that the Holy Spirit is telling us by the very address in this verse that the condition originates in **our own carnal selves**
 - Can come from our assessment (interpretation?) of abuse by those we try to help
 - Can come from our own expectations of others being too high
 - ✓ Illustrate: the young man who said he had once been involved in church and had his life straight, was walking right, etc.; then he got in the midst of some people who were supposed to be Christians and the profane ways they lived and acted destroyed his interest in living like a Christian.
 - ▶ But, let's also be aware that **the tempter** is vitally interested in pushing us to this condition
 - He uses our own feelings about the thanklessness of doing well to persuade us to give it up
 - He encourages us to have self-pity and resentment when we are misused
 - He magnifies the offenses done to us by others; tries to blow them out of proportion
- Use the whole armor of God to protect against it
 - ▶ See **Ephesians 6:13-18**

- **Ephesians 6:14** Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth,
 - ✓ We are exposed and vulnerable when we start getting weary in well doing. The truth of God gives us the durable clothing we need to feel and be covered...not exposed
- and having on the breastplate of righteousness;
 - ✓ our heart is at stake when we get weary in doing well and are on the verge of fainting
 - ✓ the breastplate of righteousness is to protect our heart from being injured by the attacks of Satan; the righteousness of Christ which we can claim as our own by grace is bullet-proof
- ▶ **Ephesians 6:15** And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
 - A good foundation knowledge of what the gospel of Christ means to you will direct how you walk; that is, will direct what you do in your behavior.
 - Illustrate: I have at least three kinds of footwear at home. Dress shoes for church and going somewhere “dressed up”; sneakers for doing training or wearing somewhere casual; and boots for when I am planning to do some serious walking or work. The footwear I put on is a kind of signal for where I am planning to go or what I am planning to do. Feet that are wearing the footwear of gospel knowledge are going somewhere, doing something, that will honor Christ and that will not lead to fainting.
- ▶ **Ephesians 6:16** Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.
 - Faith is like the bullet-proof limousines that heads of state ride in. Only a thousand times more effective for deflecting the weapons of those who want to wound you. A temptation to weary in well doing is a temptation to lay your shield of faith down, or let it drop and not cover you.
- ▶ **Ephesians 6:17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:
 - Head injury is a common injury that happens to those who are getting weary in well doing. The head is injured when we start down the road of silly thoughts; things like “I don’t intend to try anymore,” etc.
 - The helmet of salvation represents the kind of protection for our brain (and how it thinks) that happens when we meditate on the things of salvation instead of thinking about those things that lead to getting weary of doing well.
- ▶ **Ephesians 6:18** Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;
 - Keeping up the prayer life and making sure we pray for others will be a powerful force to prevent us from getting weary and fainting.

III. The promise given to us if we refuse to faint

“...in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

- We have need to wait on our Lord for the coming of that due season
 - ▶ As humans, we are famous for impatience, but the Lord calls us to learn patience when we are laboring for Him
- All the waiting in the world, however, will not be enough if during that time we allow

ourselves to grow weary and begin to faint.

▶When you are too tired to run the combine, there won't be any reaping on your farm

- There are blessings, rewards in store for the people of God, if we will not faint
- Some folks imagine that all that reward from the Lord is something we won't get until we get to heaven. But, the Lord intends to bless us while we are here on earth, and if we continue to labor and refuse to faint, in His own time...due season...He will give us a harvest that will be one of rejoicing.