

JUST KEEP GOING!

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...

1 Corinthians 15:58a

No one knows how far the throne of God is from the planet earth, but recently a brother and I actually witnessed the hand of God move from that very throne. As usual, we went to our favorite coffee shop to work on our newest Bible study. As we were working, a man named Angelo walked in and sat on the other side. He then started to look over as he heard us talking, and one time we said hello to each other. After a short time, he came over and asked us if we were Christians? We said, "that we were and that we were working on our latest Bible study." After a few minutes, we pulled out some of our tracts that we had written to give to him. His response was, "I've seen those before on the bus and have taken two or three of them home with me." You see, he works for the NFTA, or the Niagara Frontier Transit Authority here in Buffalo, and one of his jobs is to clean the buses at the end of the day. He has found our tracts, read them, and wants to come and fellowship with us. He found our tracts because a brother and a sister, whom we give our tracts to, take the bus to work every day and leave them on the seats.

He also told us that he never comes to Dunkin Donuts, but always goes to Tim Hortons for coffee. But, today he felt led by the Lord to come to Dunkin for the first time. And, as it turned out, the Lord had him come so that he could meet the two brothers who were actually writing the tracts and to let us know that our tracts were getting out and being read, and also, to give him fellowship because he said he's backslidden.

There was encouragement on all sides! For us, we found out our tracts were being picked up and read. Satan, the father of lies (John 8:44), always comes and tells us that you're wasting your time and that nothing is being accomplished in the writing of these tracts - which is a bold faced lie. For the brother who passes out the tracts on the bus, he sees them picked up and put down or discarded, and he gets frustrated, and is told by the devil that people aren't going to read them and that you're not accomplishing anything. Again - another lie! When we told the brother who leaves the tracts on the bus that we had met Angelo and that he was picking up and reading the tracts, he got encouraged to just keep going. And for Angelo, he is going to get the fellowship that he so desperately needs.

The point or gist of this testimony is for us not to get discouraged, but to just keep going and continue doing the Lord's work even when it seems like nothing is being accomplished. We must always remember Isaiah 55:11, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

Throughout the New Testament, men of God were encouraged to just keep going, do the Lord's work, and fulfill their ministry which God had given to them (Mark 13:34). Jesus finished His ministry, and we should endeavor to finish ours. Read the following scriptures and let Jesus be our example in fulfilling the work that was given to each of us to do.

John 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

John 17:4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

Acts 12:25 And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem, when they had fulfilled their ministry, and took with them John, whose surname was Mark.

Acts 13:25 And as John fulfilled his course, he said, Whom think ye that I am? I am not *he*. But, behold, there cometh one after me, whose shoes of *his* feet I am not worthy to loose.

Acts 14:25-26 And when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down into Attalia: And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled.

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Romans 15:22-23 For which cause also I have been much hindered from coming to you. But now having no more place in these parts (finished my work), and having a great desire these many years to come unto you;

Colossians 4:17 And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.

2Timothy 4:5-7 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

Revelation 11:3, 7 And I will give *power* unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

The rapture is quickly approaching! We never know when that trumpet blast is going to sound (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18), and the Lord calls home His church with the words "Come up hither" (Revelation 4:1)! That is why we are told to redeem, or make good use of the time, because the days are evil (Ephesians 5:16). Even the Lord said, "I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4)

Pass out tracts, witness whenever the opportunity presents itself, and pray for the unsaved. Keep telling people about Jesus and the wonderful gift He gave to mankind - its redemption from sin (Titus 2:13-14). How He was crucified, died, was buried, and on the third day arose from the dead according to the scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). And how He ascended up to heaven forty days later (Acts 1:2-3), and took His place at the right hand of the Father (Hebrews 12:2b) just awaiting the day that He will finally be with all of His church up in heaven (John 14:2-3).

We hope this study and the accompanying testimony we gave encourages those who are on the battle lines for Jesus Christ, to just keep going. Like the Bible says in Galatians 6:9 "and let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." And also, "For God *is* not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister." (Hebrews 6:10).

And to those not yet doing the Lord's work, or even considering doing His work, remember what Romans 13:11-12a states: "and that knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand." Also, 1 Corinthians 7:29a states: "But this I say brethren, the time is short!"

The Philadelphia church, which would be present in the last days, was told by the Lord, that He has set before them an open door (for evangelism) and that no man can shut it. Also, "they would have but a little strength left" because of the persecution and suffering they would be enduring just prior to the rapture, "but that they would be kept from the hour of temptation (great tribulation) which was coming upon all the world because they kept His word and not denied His name" (Revelation 3:7-10). "So lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees" (Hebrews 12:12) and know also that your labor is never in vain in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58b). And, like our sister Patti from Pennsylvania says at the end of practically all of her letters, "KEEP ON KEEPING ON!"

AMEN!