

SERIES: APRIL – YES, YOU CAN! OVERCOMING YOUR STRUGGLES SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD Monday, 04/25/2022 Scripture: Galatians 6:9-10 TITLE: Don't Quit

When evaluating if an investment is worth the risk, we look at a potential return on investment. Some people refer to this as an ROI. We hope or look for a certain reward for our venture. The Bible will sometimes talk about ROI as reaping and sowing. What you plant is what you should produce.

For the Christian, we have the privilege of investing or sowing the lives of others. But who are the others? What should this investment or sowing look like?

This is what Paul writes in Galatians 6:9-10.

Let us not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us work for the good of all, especially for those who belong to the household of faith.

Paul says, "let us not get tired of doing good." We might say, "don't give up being kind to one another. Keep on showing grace, mercy, and compassion."

We are like a garden hose called to water the ground and nourish the seeds and plants. When we do, there will be a harvest. When? How much? Only God knows. One of the greatest frustrations in the Christian ministry, and a principal cause for "growing tired of doing good," is the inability to calculate the spiritual outcome of faithful labors in the work of the Lord.¹

William Carey arrived in India in 1793 with a burden to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who had never heard the name. For seven years, he proclaimed the Gospel message faithfully week after week, month after month, with not a single native of India converted to Christ.² That was until Dec 28, 1800. 7 years later, Carey Baptized an Indian carpenter in the River Ganges. From this one convert came a kingdom of believers.

We don't know what the reward will be or when we will, if we will, see the fruit. But we do know God will reward us if we don't give up. But he does tell us that this reward will happen "If we don't give up."

¹ Timothy George, <u>*Galatians*</u>, vol. 30, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994), 426.

² Timothy George, <u>Galatians</u>, vol. 30, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994), 426.

He said to do good to all, especially those of the faith. This is not the call to form a clique or show favoritism. What Paul is saying is that we are called to show kindness to our spiritual family first and foremost and then show kindness and compassion to everyone who comes our way.

So here's my challenge for you today: don't quit. We all face moments of exhaustion in ministry and in our faith. It's hard to be compassionate, continually, to the body of Christ. It's downright overwhelming to show compassion and grace to our enemies. We want to give up. God says, "Don't quit. Keep going. I've the water to your hose. I'm gas in your tank. I'm the electricity in your battery."

Does this mean, we aren't allowed to rest or take a break? Not at all. Even God rested on the seventh day. But we must not quit. You can do it with the Spirit inside you.

When we continue to do good to all, we will win the day.