

Never Give In

If discouragement, pain or failure makes you want to quit, consider the Biblical example of Joseph.

Things went well with Joseph until he was sold as a slave in Egypt, [Genesis 37:1-36].

Later, just when things were improving for Joseph, as God was with him, until his master's wife tried to seduce him and when he rejected her advances, she caused him to be thrown into prison, [Genesis 39:1-20].

Of course, God worked things out for Joseph in the long run to make him ruler of Egypt directly under the pharaoh [Genesis chapters 40-41] to prepare for Israel and his family to go into Egypt because of a famine in their land, [Genesis chapters 42-50].

All of God's intervention in the life of Joseph was part of a greater plan He had for Israel.

But if you had been Joseph, would you have patiently endured all the affliction, discouragement and suffering without giving up or losing faith?

Joseph practiced the principle expounded in Proverbs.

Proverbs 24:10 [New King James] *"If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small."*

Often we get discouraged when trials come because of our own shortcomings or just through circumstances, as in Joseph's life.

But if we keep going, we will be developing part of the very character the Creator God wants us to have.

Galatians 5:22-25 [New King James] *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."*

One of those characteristics is *"long suffering."*

Romans 12:1-2 [NIV] *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will."*

If we offer our lives to God and allow Him to direct us in the way we should travel in life, then the active presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives will in the end bring success out of what seems impossible failures, as God did in the life of Joseph.

Proverbs 24:16 [New King James] *"For the righteous man may fall seven times and rise again ..."*

God knows that character does not come easily so He offers to help us if we ask Him in persistent but patient prayer.

Luke 18:1-8 [New King James] *"Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, saying: 'There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual*

coming she weary me.”” Then the Lord said, ‘Hear what the unjust judge said. And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?’”

This parable given by Jesus Christ shows how persistent prayer will be answered by our Creator God, we will also be developing another characteristic that God wants us to have “*faith*” in Him.

Do Not Quit

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you’re trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest, if you must, but don’t quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about,
When he might have won had he stuck it out;
Don’t give up though the pace seems slow –
You may succeed with another blow.

Success is failure turned inside out –
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems so far;
So stick to the fight when you’re hardest hit –
It’s when things seem worst that you must not quit.

Anonymous