

Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Mark 14:38

Store In My Heart Philippians 4:12-13

I know how to make do with little, and I know how to make do with a lot. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content — whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need. I am able to do all things through him who strengthens me.

Often, we use verse 13 alone as a mantra of encouragement. I do think it is an encouraging statement, but let's make sure we understand this idea in its context.

Paul is thanking the Philippians for their assistance with his support while preaching the Gospel. Understanding this, we see a message of being satisfied with what God has provided. This principle is not limited to our physical needs; it applies in all areas of life. Job, family, or serving the Lord our strength comes from Him. This attitude can lead to great contentment and ease of mind.



I Thought About Quitting

Terry Wane Benton

I was feeling discouraged and beat down. I was losing heart, but I turned to **John 6:68** and asked, *“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”* Suddenly my mind shifted into serious reflection about what would abandoning my faith in Jesus do for me? Would all the evidence I had studied for Jesus suddenly become false? Would all the songs I had sung through the years about “heaven holds all for me” and “I’m in the Gloryland way” now mean wasted breath and wasted thoughts? Would the love of Christ and the assurance of hope suddenly mean I was faking such a hope and would being absorbed in a love so pure now mean that it was all just a childish game of pretend?

I thought about the people who abandoned Jesus that day because their interest in Him was superficial. It was mainly about the free meals, not the meaningful content of what He was offering the soul. Then I thought, is that me? Am I discouraged because I am focused on the material benefits that I am not getting anymore? Or have I truly tasted that the Lord is good, and know He is worth my full commitment? Where shall I go? What is better than the words of eternal life?

As I thought about what I have in Jesus and His words of eternal life I realized that there is no better place to be. I thought about those who abandoned Jesus. Are they forever glad they made that choice? I can’t imagine that they are. What about those who hung in there through thick and thin? Are they glad they did?

As I thought about that, new energy of mind and heart began to fill me, and I felt ashamed that I let myself entertain the thought of quitting. A song that I grew up singing, "Am I a Soldier of the Cross?" echoed in my heart: "Must I be carried to the skies on flowery beds of ease while others fought to win the prize and sailed through bloody seas?" I became ashamed that so little in negative experiences could prove my faith so small and defeated. Faith is the victory, not giving up!

So, I kept getting back up from my near defeats, and locked my armor in place, and walked more closely with Jesus. He has the words of eternal life! Let that echo in your conscience when you feel beaten down!

Lifted Up By The Word

Our spring meeting is completed and what we were looking toward is now behind us. In some things this might lead to a letdown in our attitude. Or at least a slackening of our activity since we accomplished that goal. I hope this is not your attitude. I hope you feel as renewed in faith as I do after such a feast from the Word. Our effort to prepare and then take part in the meeting has given us more to work with in our efforts to remain faithful and spread the Gospel. We had local visitors and although some of them we have seen before, we need to follow-up on their visit. We need to meditate on what we have learned and find ways to use these lessons each day. Now you have heard the lessons and can better know who of your friends and family might benefit from listening to one or more of them. Point them to our website or Facebook page.

The article above speaks of getting back up after near defeats. Let us remember that we should not sit down after success either. There is nothing wrong with resting, but we cannot remain at rest. We need to use the energy of our success to move forward and continue to grow in our faith and understanding. DLH

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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For Our Information

Paula Laubach has started physical therapy. She has an ENT appointment in May.

Brenda Keisler is cancer free after the spot of surgery last week.

Marvin Butler is doing well after his back procedure. He is to remain at home for several days as he recovers.

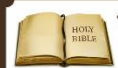
Lawson Beasley (4 or 5 year old grandson of a nurse friend of Gloria Hurst) is being worked on for possible lymphoma.

Thanks to all those who helped with preparing for the meeting and feeding our visiting preacher and his family.

Sunday Evening - **Ezra 10** Wednesday - **John 2:13**

The
CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study