

“Keep On Going”

If you ever attempt something great for GOD then get ready to face opposition and obstacles. That opposition will come in many forms and disguises. It will come from the most likely of places to the least likely. The truth is that when you step out in obedience to the Lord and begin to give birth to that Kingdom-building and strengthening movement, you have just declared yourself a target for assault. So, do not be surprised when these well-planned and orchestrated obstacles and attacks come from family, friends, colleagues, co-workers, and even brothers and sisters in the Lord. Yet, the greatest opposition and obstacle that we will face, by far, is ourselves. It is in our own minds that we will battle the fiercest assaults. In our own minds, the battle is won or lost. The outside opposition that comes is just reinforcement sent by our enemy to thwart our attempts at great works for GOD. The last thing that our enemy wants is for GOD's people to rise up and do something for Him. He would rather keep us in an anemic, defeated, and complacent state of mind when it comes to the things of the Lord. He knows that the average follower of Christ is either in constant idle mode with their walk, or can be easily discouraged when they attempt to do anything for GOD. However, even in the midst of that truth, there are those who rise up to the charge or call that GOD has put on their hearts. So what do you do when you are in the middle of your great work for GOD and these oppositions come? There are many actions to take but remembering the following always seem to help.

First, remember that as Paul writes in his letter to the Colossians in Chapter 3:23-24, “we are working for the Lord and not for men and we will be rewarded by the Lord (*paraphrased*)”.... This means that whatever earthly paycheck, recognition, compensation, award or status that is given by men pales in comparison to what the Lord promises to give. What we do must be done in service to our Lord and not for any other earthly gain because, in the end, GOD will give us our inheritance.

Secondly, remember that as God promised Moses in Exodus 33:14 “that His presence will go with him...”, and Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 28 “that He will always be with us to the very end of age”, so too, we are being guided, nurtured and watched over by our Lord as we move forward in our endeavor.

Finally, and probably the toughest one of all, is accepting the reality that not everyone will receive (*or understand*) the great thing you are doing for GOD, especially those who we were counting on for support and encouragement. The truth is that Jesus encountered the same thing when He began his ministry in his hometown of Nazareth. It seemed that very few took to His message and yet, these were the people that knew Jesus all His life and probably would say that Jesus was a stand up guy, yet, they did not open their hearts *initially*. Jesus, however, recognizing that fact, started to spread His message throughout other regions. He did not let the little support from His hometown discourage Him. He knew that His mission was far greater than those who were not willing to listen. Remember, if they did not accept Jesus in His own hometown, then do not find it surprising when your attempt at something great for God is not received either.

In the end, the only thing that matters is that you stayed obedient to what GOD called you to do. You ran the race and stayed the course against all opposition, obstacles, and assaults... you kept on going!

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