

DON'T LOSE HEART!

Paul, the apostle, asked the Ephesians not to lose heart. That means we DO HAVE A CHOICE.

There are three things that help us not to lose heart- praying constantly, being in the Word constantly, and being in fellowship constantly.

Paul is concerned with his Christian family losing heart, and drops to his knees on behalf of his Christian family!

Therefore I ask that you ***do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory***. For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be ***strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love***, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; ***that you may be filled with all the fullness of God***. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

(Ephesians 3:13-21)

The Greek word translated “lose heart” in the New Testament means to be utterly spiritless, wearied to the point of utter exhaustion

PRAY- Then He spoke a parable to them, that men ***always ought to pray and not lose heart***. (Luke 18:1)

BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF ABOUT THE WORD AND YOUR SIN AND ATTITUDES- HANDLE THE WORD HONESTLY (i.e., don't try to make it say what you want it to say)

Giving up our lives in ministry that others might live is a sure fire way to not lose heart. Just as a soldier gives up his life on the battle field so that you may have life, a Christ-follower gives up his life so that others may have life.

We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I BELIEVED AND THEREFORE I SPOKE," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present *us* with you. ***For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God. Therefore we do not lose heart***. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:8-18)

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for ***in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart***. ***Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith***. (Galatians 6:9-10)

All by His grace, all for His glory,

Pastor Baron Eickhoff

pastorbaron@cfl.rr.com

321-638-4464

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