

Source Text

Judges 6:8-16 = Gideon's Calling

Judges 7 = Gideon's 300 men and the battle against Midian

Judges 8:1-5 = Faint yet pursuing

We see the call of Gideon in Judges 6. The context of Gideon's calling is he called to deliver the Israelites from the Midianites. His calling is in chapter 6. In chapters 7 and 8 he delivers the Israelites from the Midianites. In pursuing the enemy in chapter 8 we have an example of Gideon's army being the situation we find ourselves in...faint and yet pursuing.

Faint, yet pursuing (Judg 8:4)

- Faint (H5889 (âyêph /aw-yafe') From H5888; languid: - faint, thirsty, weary, and exhausted
- Pursuing (H7291 râdaph /raw-daf') A primitive root; to run after (usually with hostile intent; figuratively (of time) gone by): chase, put to flight, follow (after, on), hunt, (be under) persecute (-ion, -or), pursue

Faint and yet pursuing in our calling

When God calls us it's wonderful yet fearful at the same time. It's wonderful that God spoken to us but fearful because the call of God will always be bigger than we are. The reason being is we don't need God and his strength to do his will then we can do God's will in our own power

Once we get into the will of God there's a measure again of excitement because God is using us yet there is a sense of how can we do this? What if I fail? What will others think? What if I don't have what it takes? What if I haven't been trained enough? Or I haven't done that before so how will I know what to do?

We run into many obstacles in the will of God – people, exhaustion, limited finances, ourselves, situations we can't control, lack of results, perceived fruitlessness, disappointment, being let down by people, schedule

Because of the obstacles we'll find ourselves faint but ye we can still pursue in our calling

God knows we get discouraged so he has given us verses to encourage to pursue in our calling

1 Gal 6:9 *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*

- The context of Galatians is the Judaizers were trying to mix in the law with grace
- Weary (G1573 ekkakeō) From G1537 and G2556; to be (bad or) weak, that is, (by implication) to fail (in heart): - faint, be weary. Literally it means to faint or lose heart. See 2 Thess 3:13. (*Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary*)
- Well (Gkalos) Of uncertain affinity; properly beautiful, but chiefly (figuratively) good (literally or morally), that is, valuable or virtuous. (*Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary*)
- In due season pictures the harvest-time of each form of well-doing. In its proper season. See also Gal 6:5
- Reap (2325 theridō) From G2330 (in the sense of the crop); to harvest: - reap. (*Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary*)
- Faint (G1590 ekluoō) Faint, Only here in Paul. See Mat 15:32; Mar 8:3; Heb 12:3, Heb 12:5. Lit. to be loosened or relaxed, like the limbs of the weary. (*Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary*)
- AT Robertson's Word Pictures – "Literally, "Let us not keep on giving in to evil while doing the good." It is curious how prone we are to give in and to give out in doing the good which somehow becomes prosy or insipid to us."
- Paul warns the Galatians to not give in to doing evil while doing the right things
- This verse shows us what we have all felt at times in the will of God – weariness
- Doing good can be hard and exhausting and make us weary
- Other scriptures that use the same Greek word for weary
 - Lk 18:1 *Men ought always to pray and not faint*
 - 2 Cor 4:1 *Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not*

- 2 Cor 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day
- Eph 3:13 Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory
- 2 Thess 3:13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing
- The key then to not fainting in these verses is prayer, God's mercy, the abundant grace, trials are for glory
- God is in charge of the season of reaping. Everything has its season for bearing fruit. God has an appointed season for the fruitfulness of our labour in the Lord. We just don't know when
- Maybe the appointed season of reaping is in heaven. Maybe we'll never know our full impact here & now
- That's why we walk by faith
- Summary = If we don't faint, we'll reap in due season

~ 1 Cor 15:58 *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

- The context of this verse is the resurrection of Christ
 - 1 Cor 15 - Paul has given us the facts that a Risen Christ is true, hope, victory and a motivation to godly living
- Steadfast (G1476 hedraios) From a derivative of ἕζομαι hezomai (to sit); sedentary, that is, (by implication) immovable: - settled, steadfast. (*Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary*)
 - Barnes = "Seated, sedentary (Robinson); perhaps with an allusion to a statue (Bloomfield); or perhaps to wrestling, and to standing one's ground (Wolf)"
 - JFB = "not turning aside from the faith of the resurrection"
- Unmovable {only occurrence} (277 ametakinētos) From G1 (as a negative particle) and a derivative of G3334; immovable: - unmovable. (*Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary*)
 - JFB = "not turned aside by others (1Cor 15:12; Col 1:23)"
- Robertson' Word Pictures = "Keep on becoming steadfast, unshaken." Let the sceptics howl and rage. Paul has given rational grounds for faith and hope in Christ the Risen Lord and Saviour. Note practical turn to this great doctrinal argument."
- Abounding = to cause to superabound or excel
- Always engaged in doing the will of God; in promoting his glory, and advancing his kingdom
- Labour (G2873 kopos) From G2875; a cut, that is, (by analogy) toil (as reducing the strength), literally or figuratively; by implication pains: - labour, + trouble, weariness. (*Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary*)
- Vain (G2756 kenos) Apparently a primary word; empty (literally or figuratively): - empty, (in) vain. (*Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary*)
- Because of Christ's resurrection there is motivation to always abound in the work of the Lord
- The resurrection enables us to be steadfast and unmoveable – not wavering, tossed all around,
- Being steadfast and unmoved from the doctrine of the resurrection we can abound in the Lord's work
- When we abound in the work of the Lord we know our labour in the Lord isn't vain
- Summary = Our labour in the Lord isn't in vain

~ 2 Thess 3:13 *But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.*

- The context is that the Thessalonian believers had misunderstood Paul's first letter to them and thought that if the Lord is coming then why should we work. Let's just focus on the Lord's return and take it easy. For this reason Paul said some aren't working and they should work to provide for themselves (v11,12)
- Weary (G1573 ekkakeō) From G1537 and G2556; to be (bad or) weak, that is, (by implication) to fail (in heart): - faint, be weary. Literally it means to faint or lose heart. See 2 Thess 3:13. (*Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary*)
- Well doing (G2569 kalopoieō) From G2570 and G4160; to do well, that is, live virtuously: - well doing.
- Alford = "from the context, cannot mean 'doing good' (to others), but doing well, living diligently and uprightly: see also Gal 4:9."
- Summary = Don't do it. This is a warning from Paul not to be weary

~ Heb 6:10 *For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.*

- The writer is speaking to Hebrew believers to persuade them to have works that accompany salvation in Hebrew 6:1-9. They should go on to maturity and fruitfulness
- Work (G2041 ergon) From ἔργω ergō (a primary but obsolete word; to work); toil (as an effort or occupation); by implication an act: - deed, doing, labour, work. (*Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary*)
- Labour (G2873 kopos) From G2875; a cut, that is, (by analogy) toil (as reducing the strength), literally or figuratively; by implication pains: - labour, + trouble, weariness. (*Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary*)
- Ministered (G1247 diakoneō) From G1249; to be an attendant, that is, wait upon (menially or as a host, friend or [figuratively] teacher); technically to act as a Christian deacon: - (ad-) minister (unto), serve, use the office of a deacon. (*Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary*)
- Sometimes in our diligence of doing God's will we feel unnoticed, our work has no impact and useless
- Notice the writer says there's two things God won't forget 1) our work 2) labour of love
- This is work and labour for the Lord because it has been done with the motivation towards him in mind
- There is then a further qualification given to this work for the Lord – we've ministered to the saints
- This shows us that our work is for the Lord but for his people
- We have the promise that God won't forget work for him
- Summary = God won't forget your labour

Heb 10:36 *For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.*

- Need (G5532 chreia) From the base of G5530 or G5534; employment, that is, an affair; also (by implication) occasion, demand, requirement or destitution: - business, lack, necessary (-ity), need (-ful), use, want. (*Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary*)
- Patience (G5281 hupomonē) From G5278; cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, constancy: - enduring, patience, patient continuance (waiting). (*Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary*)
 - Robertson's Word Pictures = Old word for remaining under trial
- Will (G2307 thelēma) From the prolonged form of G2309; a determination (properly the thing), that is, (actively) choice (specifically purpose, decree; abstractly volition) or (passively) inclination: - desire, pleasure, will. (*Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary*)
 - Robertson's Word Pictures = There is no promise to those who patiently keep on doing wrong.
- Promise (G1860 epaggelia) From G1861; an announcement (for information, assent or pledge; especially a divine assurance of good): - message, promise. (*Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary*)
- Summary = We need patience in doing the will of God

Solutions to be "Encouraged in your Calling"

1 Keep looking at Christ – Peter walked on the water until he started noticing everything else (Matt 14:23-33. In

Matt 14:30 Peter saw the wind boisterous (violent and strong) and started to sink

2 Stop looking at people – People will disappoint, let us down but I need to look at and focus on Christ

3 Patience (Heb 10:36 we have need of patience) We have to be told that because we're not patient by nature.

We want what we want when we want it

4 Walk by faith – We have to trust God with results. When we try to micromanage people, situations and problems it's not walking by faith but by sight

5 Fight discouragements – One of the reasons we become weary is we get discouraged

6 God hasn't forgotten you – People may not notice our work for the Lord but the Lord notice

7 Don't forget fellowship with God as you pursue your call – A loss of fellowship with God makes the call unenjoyable and a burden

8 God is the rewarder – I must trust that God is a righteous rewarder in his own ways and not necessarily mine

9 Ultimately we're ministering to the Lord – we minister his name (1 Cor 15:58). Samuel ministered to the Lord

10 Receive God's mercy – Paul said he fainted not because he had God's mercy (2 Cor 4:1)

11 Keep our expectations in check – Our expectation should be of the Lord (Ps 62:5)

12 Avoid exhaustion – Exhaustion can skew our view about life, God and His plan for our life

13 Live a day at a time – If we look at the whole of life and try to figure it out today it will seem overwhelming. We have the grace we need from God for today. Jesus said tomorrow will take care of itself (Matt 6:34)