

Why Many Loose Heart In Doing Good

Text : **Galatians 6: 1-10**

INTRODUCTION :

A. More than half the marriages in this country end in divorce.

1. Couples start off floating on a sea of passion, but once the passion is satisfied, they have nothing left to hold their union together.
2. Because their relationship has no foundation in real commitment, like a fire made of stubble, it starts hot, but burns out quickly.
3. In the absence of passion the work of relationship building is more of a burden than the couple is willing to bear so when struggles arise they give up.

B. Sadly, this same scenario plays out in the spiritual realm.

1. People come into the kingdom on fire for the Lord.
 - a. They are eager for most any kind of spiritual activity.
 - b. They look forward to coming to all the assemblies.
 - c. Every sermon is just what they need.
2. However, much to the dismay of our Lord, their fire often burns down to embers.
 - a. It is no longer new and exciting.
 - b. Activities of the world become increasingly difficult to keep in the background.
 - c. More and more is required to provide them with spiritual motivation.
3. Eventually the formerly zealous Christian finds him or herself just drifting along.

C. This has been a problem from the beginning until now.

1. The Lord's Apostle admonished Christians in his time :
 - a. **Gal. 6: 7-9** **Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹ Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.**
 - b. **II Thes. 3: 13-** **But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.**
2. We've all known members who were at one time very active members, but who slowly wound down until they were almost completely inactive.
3. Even some of us are presently less active than we were at one time. **WHY ??**

I. Some lose heart in doing good because they didn't expect opposition.

A. Social pressure : We live in an era when Christianity is often not popular.

1. The ungodly are loud and aggressive in their desire to erase Christian values.
 - a. They don't want to be forbidden anything.
 - b. They do not want to practice moral restraint.
2. Basically, they want to practice sin without being made to feel guilty about it.
 - a. They want everyone to be accepting of them, but are unwilling to tolerate differences.
 - b. "*Political correctness*" is the use of social pressure to eliminate opposition to sin.

B. Pressure from Satan : Erring teachers have taught that when one accepts Christ their evil desires will be removed by the Holy Spirit.

1. Consequently, some expect they won't be tempted if they are truly a Christian.
2. When they still feel the desires of the flesh these people become discouraged.
3. In **Rom. 7: 14** even the Lord's inspired Apostle wrestled with the flesh.

C. Opposition is to be Expected : Jesus Himself taught us to expect opposition.

1. **Matt. 10: 16-39** ... As His servants we shouldn't expect to be treated better than Jesus.
2. The Apostle Paul warned us to expect to be persecuted. **II Tim. 3: 12**
3. Being transformed (**Rom. 12: 2**) Christians are different so prejudice is expected.

D. The battle against Satan is fought in the flesh, but we don't fight alone.

1. Jesus is right there in the trenches with us.
 - a. **Matt. 28: 20**- " ... I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
 - b. He limits the opposition that Satan can wage against our flesh.
I Cor. 10: 13- No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.
2. He doesn't eliminate them altogether because we need struggles in order to grow.
 - a. **James 1: 2-4** ... Our spiritual struggles strengthen our faith.
 - b. *It's like lifting weights, the increased strength comes only at the point when one has pushed himself to his limit.*
3. When we lose a battle, Jesus is there to pick us up.
 - a. **I John 1:7** ... Jesus keeps on forgiving us and sending us back into the battle.
 - b. The only way we can lose is to surrender.
4. **Are you girded for battle and ready to stand against the pressures of the world ?**

II. Some lose heart in doing good because they have never been fully committed.**A. This is the current mantra of the organization of atheists.**

1. They claim there are more atheists in the pews of churches than real Christians.
2. They advertise “You know you don’t really believe ... have courage to stand.”
3. **Sadly**, in some instances they are correct. (**II Tim. 3: 5** ... **have denied its power**)

B. Some drift away or just vegetate on the pew because it’s tough to suffer for something you don’t really believe in.

1. Many have grown up in the church and just accepted their parent’s religion.
 - a. They attended bible classes and learned bible facts, but never developed faith.
 - b. When they reached a certain age, they understood that they were expected to be baptized.
2. The result is :
 - a. When these experience social pressure they have no strength to resist.
 - b. They are unwilling to let their “religion” inconvenience their lives.

C. Those who haven’t developed a deep personal faith don’t appreciate salvation.

1. **Rom. 6: 23** ... The wages of sin is eternal separation from God. (**Feel burdened**)
2. **Rom. 5: 9-10** ... Those who sin become the object of God’s wrath, **His enemy**.

D. TOO many try to hang on to the world and to Christ at the same time.

1. They want the pleasures of the world and the security found in Christ.
2. Being a Christian is a choice ... either , or , **but never both**.
 - a. It cannot be added to one’s life; it must become one’s life.
 - b. Jesus does not want the greater portion of your life ... He wants it all or none.
3. The scriptures make this abundantly clear.
 - a. **Matt. 10: 24-39** ... Jesus warns that He will not be second to anyone on earth.
 - b. **I John 2: 15** ... The Apostle warns, the disciple of Christ cannot love the world.
 - c. **James 4: 4** ... James explains that the Christian can’t even be friends with the world.
4. Paul explains that the very act of becoming a Christian teaches this principle.
 - a. **Rom. 6: 1-6** ... In baptism one buries the self who has a relationship with the world.
 - b. **When one buries a dead body, he does not leave one hand sticking up out of the grave attempting to grasp to life. The Christian must become new. II Cor. 5: 14-19**
5. **How committed are you ? What is the single most important thing in your life.**

III. Some lose heart in doing good because they don't grow spiritually.**A. They become bored like someone trying to paddle up stream, but not moving.**

1. **ILL.** - I used to teach this principle to my youth group when taking them canoeing. We would go leisurely downstream, but at one point I would instruct them to turn upstream and paddle against the current. They could make no progress and would eventually give up.
2. This principle holds true in life. People tend to stop making an effort if they feel they're making no progress.

B. Most who don't develop spiritually, haven't really tried to do so. (*All Can !*)

1. Spiritual growth doesn't just happen. *It requires a consistent effort.*
2. One must set growth as a goal and work toward it.

C. Spiritual growth does not occur without exercise.

1. Many make the mistake of dwelling on the things they can't do.
 - a. The lesson of the parable of the talents is that we each use our own gifts. **Mat 25**
 - b. Everyone is different, but God has given every person the ability to serve.
2. No one else can create spiritual growth in you.
 - a. You must desire it enough to work to develop it.
 - b. **ILL.** - One doesn't get muscles by watching videos or reading magazines.
3. James commands us to be "**doers**" of the word. **James 1: 21-25**
 - a. Doer is a translation of the word "*poiētes*" which is also translated poet. **Acts 17: 28**
 - b. To be a "**poet**" of the word is to creatively apply it to one's life.
 - c. A poet doesn't wait to be led; he expresses his heart without being told to do so.

D. In order to grow one must recognize what God wants done and then look within himself to find what ability he has to achieve God's objective.

1. No two Christians have the same skill-sets, but all have abilities God can use.
2. Not everyone can be a public teacher, but everyone can communicate the gospel.
3. **ILL.** - Gertrude Thomas reached people by baking cakes and hospitality.
 - a. Man in Louisiana washed windows of parked cars and left a tract under the wiper.
 - b. Man with an old pickup put a hug sign in the bed inviting people to church.
 - c. Old couple with a van picked up kids for Sunday school.
4. **What are you doing to make you a stronger servant for God ?**

IV. Some lose heart in doing good because they don't stay plugged in to their power source.

A. Before starting any job, a contractor makes sure he has a proper power supply.

1. Before building a house one sets a post, installs a box and hooks up electricity.
2. When using one's tools, he must insure that they stay connected. (*even battery*)

ILL. - When working on a roof my partner jokingly kept unplugging cord. Each time work stopped until it was returned to the power source.

B. Jesus is the ultimate spiritual power source.

1. It is His power working in and through us which enables us to do His will.
 - a. **Eph. 3: 20**
 - b. **Phil. 4: 13**
2. It is Jesus who controls all power and all authority. **Eph. 1: 18-21**

C. Christ designed His church to function like a nuclear reactor.

1. The nuclear principle is remarkably simple.
 - a. An atom is like a miniature solar system, a number of small objects orbiting one larger object with a lot of space in between.
 - b. When atoms are brought in close proximity of each other, the orbit of the small objects increases in speed creating heat.
 - c. Increased mass and closer proximity increases heat.
2. The church functions on this principle because each member activates others.
 - a. **Hebrews 10: 23-25** Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; ²⁴ and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.
 - b. Christians come together to activate each other.
 - c. The text does not imply one short assembly each week. (Cf.- **Acts 2: 41-47**)
3. Activation does not occur just by singing at the back of a brother's head.
 - a. We worship while we are in the assembly, but worship is not it's only function.
 - b. **I Cor. 14: 26** instructs Christians that the assembly is to be about edification.
4. **What are you doing to active others and to be activated by them ?**

CONCLUSION :

What is your condition ?

A. Have you lost heart in doing good ?

1. Are you standing steadfastly in the face of the world's opposition ?
2. Are you fully committed to Christ and to serving Him on the earth ?
3. Are you actively pursuing spiritual growth ?
4. Are you plugged in to your spiritual power sources ?

B. Are you outside of Christ ?

1. Jesus died to save you.
2. He invites you take up your cross and follow Him.

INVITATION :

Lesson Text :

Galatians 6: 1-10

- 1** Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. **2** Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. **3** For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. **4** But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have *reason for* boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. **5** For each one will bear his own load.
- 6** The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches *him*. **7** Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. **8** For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. **9** Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. **10** So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.