

Filling in the Gaps Lesson 28A Weary in Well doing

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We will begin this lesson in 2 Thessalonians 3. This chapter begins with a discussion of the persecutions, tribulations, and hard times facing the born again people in this little church in Thessalonica. It then shifts toward the end of the letter to dealing with disorderly and disobedient members of the church and wraps up the book with this admonition 2 Thessalonians 3:13 *But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing*.

This was a church in 1 Thessalonians 1 that was known around the world for their evangelism. Many Christians, even this one, have had a season of fervent evangelism and then grew weary and are no longer engaged in the practice. They were known for having a great love for one another, respect for leadership, and devotion to the doctrines of the faith. If you have been in a church for any length of time, you will have noticed how people who brag of their love for the church and its members will soon no longer be there. You ask around as to what happen to them; you will find out that they just got tired of coming.

When trouble comes (it maybe physical, spiritual, it might be from family pressure, it might be from job related influence or it may come from the world's pressure as you stand for the Lord), some people just cave in under the pressure, then just fade out. Instead of going to God, their Pastor or a leader in the church with their problems, they take it to someone who will sympathize with them, taking their side for leaving the Church. If you talk with the Pastor, he will tell you on any day that he is never tired of winning souls for Jesus. No matter what problems arise, we must push forward telling the lost about Jesus. The Bible tells us in many ways to go out and tell others about Jesus Christ so they can be saved. One verse that often sticks in my mind is Luke 14:23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. We are to compel them to come in. This verse is a command, not a request. No one is going to leisurely stroll into a Bible Believing Church to get saved. We have to go into all parts of the world - our towns, neighborhoods, our work place, our grocery stores, and anywhere lost people might be and compel them.

Problems will come, that is a fact (Job 5:7), but we need to just take it to God and keep pushing forward. (1 Corinthians 10:13; Philippians 3:14)

The Bible speaks of the things that aggravate and tempt the Lord, but whining and murmuring are at the top on His list. Any Pastor understands



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troubles, but he gets sick and tired of dealing with disorderly conduct. This behavior comes from one source - pride/selfishness.

It is interesting that the Lord has come to the close of these two letters saying, *be not weary in well doing*. The world would be a better place if lost people got tired of sin at the same rate that saved people get tired of serving Jesus.

Are you just going through the motions of being a Christian? Are you tired of all the reading, praying, witnessing, praising, and thanking the Lord? Does the Bible still hold a special place in your heart, or has the TV or maybe your new cell phone replaced that spot? Maybe you are just tired of all the work involved in being a Christian, and you have other ideas to supplement that time you have supposedly wasted with all that Christian stuff.

The Bible has many instructions that will deliver you from or prevent you from becoming weary in well doing. Deuteronomy 25, here is a congregation of people that have been saved by the blood of the Lamb, delivered from the bondage in Egypt, and miraculously transported across the Red Sea. The Lord has provided for their every need - food, water, a guide by day and night. He has even kept their clothes and shoes from wearing out as they traveled through the wilderness on their way to the promised land.

The promised land just did not come as rapidly as they thought it would. The journey was just not as easy as they thought it would be. Some of them grew weary with the journey. The Bible says Deuteronomy 25:17-18 Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt; How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God. You do not want to fall back, because those who hate God will come and pick you off one by one. The devil will get the stragglers lagging behind, just tired of the march, tired of the journey, tired of all that goes with it. There is an enemy that hates God and would delight in taking you out from the congregation. He would delight in cutting you off from all the blessings of the Lord.

Look at Job 10. Here is another danger of growing weary in well doing Job 10:1 *My soul is weary of my life; I will leave my complaint upon myself; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul.* Who could blame Job for being weary after all that he went through? We're not going to blame him, but we are going to learn from him. This man lost all his family except for one. Only his wife lived, and she encouraged him to curse God and die. Job lost his income then his health. No blame is warranted towards Job, nor should you blame God either. God sent him forth to be an example of someone who endured his temptations and came out on the other side, but God did not spare Job from the difficulties he faced. The Bible says this in Job 10:1-6 *My soul is weary of*



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my life; I will leave my complaint upon myself; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul. I will say unto God, Do not condemn me; shew me wherefore thou contendest with me. Is it good unto thee that thou shouldest oppress, that thou shouldest despise the work of thine hands, and shine upon the counsel of the wicked? Hast thou eyes of flesh? or seest thou as man seeth? Are thy days as the days of man? are thy years as man's days, That thou enquirest after mine iniquity, and searchest after my sin? Job said in verse one he was weary. When he got weary, he recognized the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Condemning God, finding fault with God, or accusing God is not the correct response to God. You are placing yourself in a bad situation. Honestly, trouble will come in your life. Some great setback or difficulty is just around the corner or has just passed. Our first move should be to draw nigh to God, trust in God. Psalm 100:4-5 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations. Because when the trouble or setback comes and the Lord doesn't lift that burden as rapidly as we want Him to, we have the tendency to grump or complain.

By surrounding ourselves with the love of God, we are arming ourselves with the tools that will conquer the whining of the flesh. Let's read a portion in Psalm 102 - a great trial of affliction. Psalm 102:1-11 Hear my prayer, O LORD, and let my cry come unto thee. Hide not thy face from me in the day when I am in trouble; incline thine ear unto me: in the day when I call answer me speedily. For my days are consumed like smoke, and my bones are burned as an hearth. My heart is smitten, and withered like grass; so that I forget to eat my bread. By reason of the voice of my groaning my bones cleave to my skin. I am like a pelican of the wilderness: I am like an owl of the desert. I watch, and am as a sparrow alone upon the house top. Mine enemies reproach me all the day; and they that are mad against me are sworn against me. For I have eaten ashes like bread, and mingled my drink with weeping, Because of thine indignation and thy wrath: for thou hast lifted me up, and cast me down. My days are like a shadow that declineth; and I am withered like grass. These verses are a foretelling of what Jesus Christ would suffer on Calvary's cross. The scripture is written not only to show the prophecy of the Lord, but also for (our) ensamples: and they are written for our admonition. 1 Corinthians 10:11.

Then look what the scripture shows us next, how to free ourselves from this great affliction in Psalm 103:1-14 Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is



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renewed like the eagle's. The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed. He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel. The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

One evening in the Rescue Mission, a man approached us fretting that his sin was so great that God would never forgive him. We told him that God has more mercy than he had sin. He was still a little skeptical until we asked him to read Psalm 136 out loud. Twenty-six times in 26 verses the word of God told him "his mercy endureth for ever." When he finished reading, his doubtful, sad face turned into a big smile and a gracious thank you. The word of God is powerful. It is God's word. When you read it and believe it, it will change you. Look at Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

A trial never ends quickly enough but we always have choices. We can let the trial bring us down, or we can let the Lord bring us up.

Most people go through life doing everyday things, nothing special, no fireworks. In the life of a Spiritual Christian serving the Lord, the excitement comes often because we have chosen <u>not</u> to entangle ourselves in the things of the world. Our fellowship in the church with other likeminded believers, witnessing, reading the Bible, and prayer time are our excitements.

We live in a world that is sensationalized. Every experience has to be a WOW moment; and if a Christian is not careful, he or she can get caught up in that sensual attitude and be disappointed when the excitement is not happening in their own life. They think they are missing out on something by being a Christian.

How do we deal with weariness? Let us start in Isaiah 50:4-5 *The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned. The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.* The cure for weariness is to get up every morning and hear the word of the Lord. Wake up and read your Bible. Start your day, not with the news not with the weather, not with the chat line of the day, not with an argument. Start your day with the word of God. If you are weary in well doing, get back in the book. Going to church is great,



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but if that is the only time you are hearing the Bible, you will get weary in well doing. You need to read it, get excited about it, desire it, and make it the first thing you do every day.

Next Isaiah 40:28-31 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

You and I just get tired of things going wrong. We get tired of people's sinful actions. How many times do you think God has seen things go wrong and seen wicked behavior? Are you saved? Then you know about being weary of witnessing to people that just do not want to hear it and give every excuse in the book. You plead with them, yet they still ignore the truth. How many times has God dealt with someone about their eternal destiny, and they have refused to know the truth? There is no understanding of God's mercy. Often we want to take the approach the disciples took in Luke 9:54 *And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?* We need to refrain from that kind of thinking. Our Lord is *not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9b*

Our goal is to live our lives in the Spirit, so that when our bodies get weary, God will keep giving us the energy to complete the tasks He has told us to do for Him. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you, for the joy of the LORD is your strength. (Psalm 73:28 Nehemiah 8:10b) God will just keep giving you energy all the way home to the finish line. Praise the Lord! If you are getting tired of reading your Bible, witnessing and praying, tired of people laughing in your face, calling you a fanatic, remember the Lord never got tired of sending people to you to tell you about Him. Remember our Lord never got tired when He hung of that cross and suffered and died for us. Where would we be if He just thew up His hands and said, "I am sick and tired of trying to tell this person about me. Just let him go to Hell."

The Lord saved us to be His ambassadors, not His supervisors. We have a very important job to do for our Lord (our Supervisor). We need to get to it and stop with the lame excuses.

Make sure you read Lesson 28B also.

Notes



Filling in the Gaps Lesson 28 Weary in Well doing

	Name	
Note:	(*) An asterisk indicates must include scripture with your answers.	
1.	What should you do when you get tired of serving the Lord?	
2.	What should you <u>not</u> do when the person you are trying to lead to _ord is giving you a hard time? *	the
3.	What does the Lord say about telling lost people about getting save	.d? *
4.	What act of the flesh really aggravates the Lord?	
5.	Explain 2 Peter 3:9.	
6.	What passage in the Bible shows the mercy of God? *	
7.	Explain why Nehemiah could make a statement like the one foun Nehemiah 8:10?	d in

Define the following words as described in this Bible lesson.

a.

ambassadors

8.

b. Supervisor

- 9. What happens to those who lag behind? *
- 10. What can we learn from the life and experiences of Job? *
- 11. Why do trials and tribulation come in the life of a Christian who is serving God?
- 12. What is the important job that the Lord has given us, and what should we be doing with that job?

True/false

- When you are tired of serving, it is OK to sit out for awhile. Someone else will fill in for you.
- When trials and tribulations come in your life, it is a sure sign that you have sinned.
- Sweeping off the front steps of the Church is serving the Lord.



Scripture memorization 2 Peter 3:9; Luke 14:23; 2 Thessalonians 3:13 Write out these verses on the back on this page: (must be in KJV)

Any questions?