



## Be Not Weary

*“And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Galatians 6:9 KJV)*

**M**any of God’s people are weary. Some try to hide it, but every now and then you can see it in their eyes and hear it in their voices. And it’s no wonder. What a day we live in! There is stress; there are demands. If we watch the news, we see a world in crisis. Yet God’s Word tells us, “. . . let us not be weary in well doing. . . .” How do we do that?

We must first realize it is possible to live in such a world and such a day as ours and not be weary. Some people will not agree with me because their lives seem so pressured. Little about their everyday schedules and responsibilities appears manageable. Weariness and stress have become a way of life for many, and their lives seem to be like runaway trains that will only stop when they crash. However, the Apostle Paul who wrote Galatians is saying it is possible not to be weary in our well doing. He didn’t make any exceptions for those of us whose lives may presently be wearing us out.

**I** want the life and strength Isaiah wrote about: “He [God] gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:29-31 NKJV).

The source of the power and strength we need is God. That is completely opposite to the ways and thinking of the world, but that should not surprise us. God said: “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the

Lord” (Isaiah 55:8 NKJV). It is “those who wait on the Lord” who will be able to run—manage a busy schedule with demands and stresses—and not be weary in soul and spirit.

**N**either Paul nor Isaiah is saying we are not going to be tired physically. Work will make us tired. It is helpful to keep our bodies strong through exercise and good nutrition because these things help build energy and stamina for the work we do. When our bodies become tired, we know the answer is proper rest. It is wisdom to keep a balance between work and rest; it is foolishness and we do ourselves no favor if we ignore God’s laws for good physical health.

The problem of weariness, however, can largely be a spiritual matter. You’ve probably noticed that mental stress can produce fatigue faster and longer than physical stress. However, it’s not just the fact that we face many stressful circumstances and problems throughout our days, it’s what we think during those times of difficulty and crisis that can produce the weariness Paul wrote about to the Galatians. It matters what we think and what we believe. In the Book of Galatians Paul wrote to correct the Galatians’ faulty thinking as well as to encourage them. It appears they were becoming weary and were in danger of fainting or giving up.

**H**ow might someone become weary in well doing? Being unappreciated can cause weariness. Most of us enjoy being appreciated for the work we do and hope to receive that appreciation. In a perfect world, appreciation would always be quickly forthcoming. That perfect world does not currently exist in our time and space. Therefore, we should not expect perfection

from those whom we serve or help. After all, are we perfectly appreciative of others' efforts in our behalf? This might be a growth point for some of us, including me.

Another major growth challenge is to aim toward letting the knowledge of a job well done—though seemingly unnoticed or unappreciated—be reward enough in itself. The kind of job we do when no one is looking—or so it may seem—reflects the kind of character we are developing in ourselves.

**P**aul explained the spiritual principle of sowing and reaping. He said: “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap” (Galatians 6:7 NKJV). Sowing well-doing will produce a return of like kind and God Himself will see to it. The kind of sowing determines the kind of reaping. As an example of this, Paul wrote about the two overarching fields into which we may sow: “For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life” (Galatians 6:8 NKJV). This was good instruction for the Galatians and for us.

But what about when you are sowing words or deeds of kindness and seem to be reaping only harshness and rejection in return? Remember, “God is not mocked” (Galatians 6:7). That means, if you are sowing good seeds, you *will* reap a harvest of good. No one can change God's laws or His Word. You can expect the kind of harvest to be just like the kind of seed you are sowing—good for good (or likewise, bad or bad). You *will* reap, but sometimes that reaping may come from a different direction than you expect. We may look to our boss, our husband, our wife or our friend for some appreciation or recognition, forgetting that the source of the guarantee is God. When God is involved, the reward may come from any direction or any place.

**T**herefore reaping is guaranteed, even though there appears to be delays. Paul told the Galatians that “in due season, we shall reap, if we faint not.” Everything has a “due season.” When you plant tomatoes, carrots or green beans, the due season is a few weeks. But what is the due season for reaping when you are sowing well-doing?

That's much harder, if not impossible, to determine. That's why Paul had to warn the Galatians. Their well-doing seemed to be unrewarded and unappreciated and they were becoming weary. They had begun to think it was futile to continue doing well. Have you ever said to yourself: “What good is it? No one really seems to care or notice what I am doing.”

We, like the Galatians, can easily forget Who is our only guarantee and ultimate source. We need to be reminded. And we like they need encouragement to cast off weariness by looking to Jesus who is our example in well-doing. Jesus sought to please only His Father. He was received and rejected, blessed and cursed, loved and hated by those He came to serve. His heavenly Father always saw, always was pleased and always cared. From Jesus we learn that to look to any other source than God for our reward for well-doing is a trap and to give up is fruitless, sometimes even disastrous.

**I** encourage anyone who is weary that “those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength . . . they shall run and not grow weary, they shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31). God does give “power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength” (Isaiah 40:29). In due season we will reap if we do not give up. Also, use God's Word as the powerful weapon that it is to defeat the enemies of your soul and to overcome weariness. **SH**

GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY

Teaching Letter 21

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