

from the desk of
Danny D. Miller



Super Good and Getting Better, by the Grace of God!

(1 Corinthians 9:24-27 and 2 Corinthians 4:1; 7-11; 16-18)

Story is told of two brothers during the days of the California gold rush –They sold every thing they had and moved to California to dig for gold. They did find a small vein of gold, but it evenly stopped. Discouraged, they sold the rights to their claim for a few hundred dollars and moved back to Kansas.

The man who bought it, hired a mining engineer who told him that if he would continue to dig 3 feet deeper, he would find more gold! Sure enough he did and that man became a multi-millionaire. (Show yard stick). Inch by inch, it's a cinch!

If the two brothers would have been persistent, and not given up, they would have discovered more gold.

It Is a Basic Rule of Life That Perseverance Pays!

“By perseverance the snail reached the ark!” **(In Fact, Two snails made it!)**

“Diamonds are only lumps of coal that stuck to their jobs.”

The people who achieve are the people who stick to it! They don't quit. They are not intimidated by problems and challenges, in fact they see problems as opportunities.

- **Baseball coach** – “A winner never quits, and quitter never wins.” Add to that philosophy what Paul said in Phi. 4:13 – “I can do all things through Christ that strengthen me!”

In our text, Paul said – “we don't lose heart!” One translation – “God has been kind enough to trust us with this work. That's why we never give up!”

Paul is saying to the church at Corinth, “Because God has given us mercy and invited us to take part in his work, we've not about to throw up our hands and walk off the job just because we run into hard times.”

The devil wants to knock us down and keep us down. The devil wants us to have **MAXIMUM** frustration and **MINIMUM** perseverance.

If we do get knocked down, we need to get back up! Look at Paul's life: Stone him and leave him for dead outside Lystra, and he gets back up and goes to Derby and wins a large number of disciples. Drag him into the courtroom in Caesarea and he turns the court room into an opportunity to preach the gospel! Throw him into a Roman jail and he converts the jailer! Paul always got back up when he was knocked down!

Book by Zell Miller (Senator from Georgia) Everything You Need To Know I Learned In The Marines, tells about a high school senior who applies to three colleges only to be rejected by all three. When the fourth college rejected him, he wrote the following letter to them:

“Dear Sir, I am in receipt of your rejection letter and quite frankly, sir, that is over my limit. So I am rejecting your rejection and will report for college on September 18th!”

I don't know how that turned out, but history is full of examples of people who succeed, because they rejected the rejection! They kept on getting up when they were knocked down!

- **Michael Jordan** got cut from his Jr. High basketball team, but he did not give up!
- **Colonel Sanders** was broke at age 65 when he discovered his famous Kentucky Fried Chicken recipe and started his KFC restaurants and the rest is history, especially on Potluck Sunday!

Question – How many bottles of coke did the Coca-cola company sell the first year?

only 400 bottles of coke the first year they were in business. Yet they did not give up!

- **Helen Keller**, whose remarkable life was the subject of the famous play, The Miracle Worker, lived a full and energetic life, said, “We can do anything we want to do if we stick to it long enough.”
- **Thomas Edison** when working on the light bulb said, “Even when I fail, I succeed; I've learned 5 thousands ways NOT to make a light bulb.”
- Darkest hour of England, when Hitler was using V-2's to bomb England, **Churchill** rallied the people with his famous statement – “Never, Never, Never Give Up!
- **Vince Lombardi** (when asked by a reporter what it took to have a winning team replied – “All right mister, let me tell you what winning means. It means you are willing to go longer, work harder and give more than anyone else.” These people would never give up!

While at Sunset, you need to be like a postage stamp – stick to one thing until you get there! It is imperative that you and I have this same spirit of persistence. Phil. 3

- T- Shirt: **NASA** - Failure is not an option. And yet we know what failure did; it cost the lives of 8 astronauts. You must know that you are God's workmanship and that there will be people and churches depending on you as you prepare yourself here at Sunset!

Close with Paul describing his hardships 2 Corinthians 6. Note how he ends it in verse 9 – “*dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich...*”

Paul said it this way in Galatians 6:9 – “*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up!*”

Blessings,
Danny

