

Keep Pressing On

When life doesn't seem to be going very well, you may be tempted to give up, to throw in the towel, or just to let go of everything important. You may think, "What's the use? Why should I keep on living? Why do I need this anyway? When is it all going to change for the better? Why am I trying so hard to keep up? Why am I continuing to try?" and a thousand other thoughts flood your mind. But I want to encourage you to keep on keeping on because troubles don't last always.

The Bible character Job had his fair share of hardships—for sure! In the same day, all seven of his children died, all but one of his servants died, all of his livestock died, and all produce was destroyed, so his family and his livelihood was gone. If that wasn't enough, Job also lost his health and was eat up with sores. Then his three so-called friends didn't help him to restore anything—they just told him things like you must have done something really bad for God to do all this (and said much more that he didn't need to hear). Again, if that wasn't bad enough, Job's wife no longer believed in God (so then he had no comfort) and she told Job to curse God and die. But throughout his hardships, Job still chose to keep on keeping on.

What was Job's secret? What caused him to not curse God and die? The answer, he knew that God was real and that hardships don't last forever. Job had sacrificed many times for his children's salvation and prayed that they would not sin against the God that he loved. Job's personal relationship with a real God, who he knew was capable of doing anything, was still in his mind. He held to his convictions, his integrity, and his character insomuch that it gained attention with God. God even told Satan that he could test Job and He was sure, that Job would stand faithful no matter what Satan could dish out to him. And sure enough, at the end of the Job's plight, God declared to Job who He was in His majestic state. Job had withstood the testing and God restored double of everything he lost when he prayed for his friends. Because of this beautiful story, we now have the pleasure of knowing what God will do for us when we keep on being persistent to do what we know to do until God changes our outcome.

Sadly, many times we fall into the trap of focusing only on our problems or sad situations and believe that God will never step in to change things in our favor. But God is a big God and He has no time limits. He sees all and knows all. He may be testing you for your strength, character, and integrity as He did Job, but He is proving to Satan that you will stand firm in your relationship with Him. God loves you more than you will ever comprehend in this lifetime. God believes in you! And He knows that you can make it. He knows what He put in you and that you will succeed if you don't choose to quit.

Dear Jesus,

I pray that their strength, integrity, and character will not fail when they go through the hardships of life. *You* are their God, and they can lean on you, so I pray that they know that—and please let them feel you. I pray that they will be able to see beyond their problems and their situations, to see how *You* are planning to restore them. Lord, they are tossed with tempest, torn by emotions, tried in the fire, and dangled in front of their oppressors—but God I know that despite all this, you still have a great plan for their life.

God, you said, "I know the plans I think towards you, plans of good and not evil, to bring you good success." I believe your Words, "Nothing is impossible with you" and that you can do anything for them. Lord, you are God all by yourself. You promised that you would never, ever leave them or forsake them—and I believe you! May your love surround them, and your presence overwhelm them. I declare and decree that they will keep on keeping on until you change their outcome! Yes, and Amen!

"... be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never leave you; I will never abandon you." Hebrews 13:5 (Good News Bible)

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 3:14 (ESV)

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