

Bill Cassano
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Editors note: While I am in Malawi, I have asked two of our dear friends to write a word to you. This timely exhortation comes from one of our HSS intern teachers, Bill Cassano. Remember, dear ones, we must be about our Father's business...KRP

FAINT NOT!
by Bill Cassano

I remember the hardest thing about running a long distance race was the mental aspect of it. I could train and get my legs in condition and perfect my breathing technique in a short period of time. It was running the race on a course I did not know that mentally made me want to quit. Many of us have felt like we have been barraged with one negative after another on a course where we do not see the finish line. Your circumstances seem insurmountable. You feel like you have nothing left to give. You began to wonder if you could at all walk as a Christian in an ungodly world. Yes, you can! It is human nature that we tire easily and want to relax or quit, but that is exactly the wrong thing to do when you get closer to the finish line.

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. 36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Matt 9:35-36 NKJV

Matthew 9: 35 - 36 may describe how you feel. In verse 35 it says the people "fainted" which is the Greek word EKLULO, which means to be weary, exhausted, especially from failure of power or strength. It had been 400 years since the Jews saw any spiritual leader who walked with real power. Jesus, it says in verse 36, had compassion on them. He also states they were scattered abroad as sheep with no shepherd, which is not a good thing when you are running with the wolves. For too long, the Church has been running from the wolves because we have no power to fight them. We think we are all on our own and ready to become the next wolf dinner. Not so! Keep reading the account because the solution is in Matthew 10:1.

And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Matt 10:1 NKJV

Jesus gave them power, which is the Greek word EXOUSIA, and sent them out. Jesus does have compassion on us as we can see in this record and the solution. He sends lay people out, not just ministers, and He gives them power. And, if you have power, you will not faint!

And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint... Luke 18:1KJV

In Luke 18: 1-8 the Lord gives us another key on how not to faint. In verse 1 he exhorts us to pray always so we should not "faint." That word "faint" is the Greek word EKKAKEO which is also translated weary or faint. It means fainting to the point that you turn into a coward. You lose your courage especially in light of a difficulty or a trial. When the pressure is on...you chicken out. The Lord makes the solution clear - always pray! That means to constantly speak aloud to God. The result is found in verse 8. God will avenge you speedily!

And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Luke 18:7-8 KJV

Then in Galatians 6:9 we see both words used.

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Gal 6:9-10 NKJV

Don't get weary (EKKELEO) or turn out a coward in well doing and don't faint (EKLULO) or quit for lack of power, and you will reap. Now, that is something you can take to the bank!

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Tim 4:7 NKJV

Finally, let it be said that you fulfilled II Timothy 4:7... that you have finished your course. You fought in a war worth fighting all the way to the end. Your life made a difference to God and to the furthering of the Kingdom because you ran with power, you prayed in the Spirit always, and kept a strong mind. And, in the end you did not chicken out spiritually...you not only held your ground, you took more ground because you decided to FAINT NOT!

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