

It's Always Too Soon to Quit! (1 Chronicles 28:20)

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Paderewski, the famous pianist, was scheduled to perform at a great concert hall in America. It was a high-society extravaganza. Present in the audience that evening was a mother and her fidgety nine-year old. She had brought him in the hopes that when he heard the great composer play, he would be encouraged to practice. As the mother turned to talk with some friends, he slipped away and was strangely drawn to the grand Steinway piano on the platform. Staring wide-eyed at the keys the boy sat on the stool; placed his small fingers on the keys and began to play "Chopsticks." The roar of the crowd came to a hush as frowning faces pointed in his direction. Someone began to shout, "Get that boy away from there!" "Where is his mother?" "Somebody get that kid."

Backstage the master composer overheard the sounds out front. He quickly realized what was happening and hurried toward the stage. Without one word of announcement, he stooped over behind the boy, reached around on both sides, and began to improvise a countermelody to harmonize with and enhance "Chopsticks." As they played together, the composer kept whispering in the boy's ear, "Keep going; don't quit. Keep playing; don't stop. Don't quit...."

Friend, it is the same for us as we work for the Lord. Our playing of "Chopsticks" may not be impressing anyone. We may not think we are being effective in His work and service. But about the time we are ready to give up, we hear the Master say, "Keep going, don't stop, don't give up!" And this is what the Lord is saying to each one of us today as His children. We should never give up. It does not matter what others might think about our Christian life and service. We are to keep living a life that is pleasing to the Lord and find His help and strength in accomplishing His will for our lives.

This study has to do with not quitting but fulfilling and finishing the obligations that God has called us to do. We all feel like quitting sometimes but quitting is never an

option in the Lord's work. David encouraged his son Solomon to not quit but fulfill his obligation to build the temple.

In the midst of this COVID-19 pandemic, in the midst of the communist crisis presently occurring in America, and in the midst of other calamities you might be facing today and in the future, God reminds us to never give up, never quit doing what is right and keep being a shining light and testimony for Him.

1 Chronicles 28:20

“And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do *it*: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, *even* my God, *will be* with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.”

David sought to instill his own zeal in the hearts and lives of the next generation.

1 Chronicles 29:1

“Furthermore David the king said unto all the congregation, Solomon my son, whom alone God hath chosen, *is yet* young and tender, and the work *is* great: for the palace *is* not for man, but for the LORD God. “

Folks, there is work to be done for the Lord. There are souls to be saved, there are victories to be won, and His truth must keep marching on. What we need today is a tender heart to do God's work and accomplish His will for our lives. Quitting is never an option! Quitters never win and winners never quit! When the pressure is on, when the winds of change are all around us, God has called us to remain faithful to His cause and purpose.

We see an important lesson when investigating 1 Chronicles 28:20. It's always too soon to quit!

This truth is revealed in five ways.

1. The personal reminder of a dad – “Be strong and of good courage.”

1 Chronicles 28:20 says:

“Be strong and of good courage”

1 Chronicles 28:10 also says:

“Take heed now; for the LORD hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do *it*.”

Sometimes it takes a dad (like David) to come alongside of a son (like Solomon) and tell him to be strong and courageous in order to once again instill confidence in his son. I see here the personal reminder of a dad to a son to not quit but to finish the task that God has called him to do. The reminder goes something like this: “You can do this son. Just be strong and filled with courage. God will help you get this done.”



We all need to be reminded at times to be strong and courageous when facing the challenges of ministry, while doing God’s will, and when experiencing changes and hardships in life. This is because the pressures can become weighty and Satan can sometimes be working overtime to stop us from doing God’s will for our life. We need to be strong in the Lord and filled with courage to go on and accomplish God’s will and purpose for our life.

Joshua needed this reminder as well.

Joshua 1:6-7

“Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it *to the right hand* or *to the left*, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.”

Joshua needed strength and courage to take the people into the Promised Land. He needed God’s strength and courage to go on and do what God had called him to do. And God was encouraging Joshua to not quit but to accomplish the task in the strength and courage of the Lord.

Moses had previously encouraged Joshua.

Deuteronomy 31:7

“And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it.”

Deuteronomy 31:23

“And he gave Joshua the son of Nun a charge, and said, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou shalt bring the children of Israel into the land which I sware unto them: and I will be with thee.”

This is what David was saying to his son Solomon in 1 Chronicles 28:10. He was encouraging his son to do what God wanted him to do and not waiver in doing it. “You can do it son. Just be strong and courageous. You can do it. Don’t quit.” Joshua faced many enemies that were against him and Solomon faced a giant challenge to build the temple that seemed impossible. But they were both reminded to be strong and courageous. Of course, our strength and courage comes from the Lord today.

Ephesians 6:10

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.”

We cannot do it on our own. We need the Lord’s supernatural strength operating in our lives. We need divine assistance for the daily grind. The Psalms repeatedly speak about God granting His people strength and courage.

Psalms 27:14

“Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.”

Psalms 31:24

“Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.”

We see from what David told Solomon and what is reiterated in the Psalms that strength and courage go hand in hand. They are linked together because when we are strong, we are courageous. Being strong and courageous is something we all need to claim today and practice as we witness to the lost, work in God's service, accomplish God's will for our home and church, and as we step out in faith to see God do new things in our hearts, homes, and churches. It takes strength (supernatural strength) and it takes courage (supernatural courage) to go on in life. Don't quit! God is your refuge and strength (Ps. 46:1). Don't quit. It's always too soon to quit! God will give you courage to go on!

Young William Wilberforce was discouraged one night in the early 1790s after another defeat in his 10-year battle against the slave trade in England. Tired and frustrated, he opened his Bible and began to leaf through it. A small piece of paper fell out and fluttered to the floor. It was a letter written by John Wesley shortly before his death. Wilberforce read it again: "Unless the divine power has raised you up... I see not how you can go through your glorious enterprise in opposing that (abominable practice of slavery), which is the scandal of religion, of England, and of human nature. Unless God has raised you up for this very thing, you will be worn out by the opposition of men and devils. But if God be for you, who can be against you? Are all of them together stronger than God? Oh, be not weary of well-doing. Go on in the name of God, and in the power of His might."

- Have you been deeply discouraged about something?
- Do you need to reclaim God's strength?
- Have you been trying to make it on your own?
- Are you ready to move forward in God's strength and courage?

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2. The persistence that is needed – “do it”

1 Chronicles 28:20 goes on to say:

“And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it.”

1 Chronicles 28:10 again says:

“Take heed now; for the LORD hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do it.”



Once we have the strength and courage, we can get the job done! We have seen those signs which say, “Git’er done!” Folks, it’s time to take action! It’s time to accomplish what God wants us to do. It’s time to get it done! God does not want us to surrender to the times, put on white capes, and climb on top of our house and say, “Take me home Jesus.”

We are talking about serving God in some specific way and being faithful to Him during the tough times. We sometimes talk the walk, but we don’t walk the talk! It’s time to do what you know God wants you to do and stop ignoring His call, His will, and the very thing that He wants you to do or accomplish.

Do it! Obey Me! Do right till the stars fall! This is what God is telling us today!

- What does God want you to do?
- In what way must you be obedient to Him?
- What must you get done?
- Are you ready to do it?
- Are you ready to get it done?

Jesus said in John 13:17:

“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.”

It’s one thing to KNOW what we should do but it’s another thing to DO it. God wants us to do His will which means we are to engage our strength, time, and days in being obedient to God. Knowing and doing should be welded together in the Christian experience. We can almost imperceptibly become lulled to sleep and get to the place where we are ignoring what we know God wants us to do. We become calloused to it, indifferent to it, and we find ourselves not getting it done! And some of you are not getting it done! You are not getting to church faithfully, you are not giving to God’s work sacrificially, you are not spending time with your children consistently, you are not praying to God diligently, you are not having devotions with God systematically, and you are not following God’s plan for your life. You

know it but you are not doing it! Jesus said, "Happy are ye if you do them." David told Solomon – "do it." Stop talking about it. Just do it!

As God's children, we need to get things done if we want to excel in our Christian life and experience God's blessing! We need to stop being like those Pen Dot workers that take three years to build a bridge! We need to get things done! And the time to get it done is now!

1 Chronicles 28:20

"And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it."

Do it! What do you need to do? What do you need to get done for God, for your Christian life, and for your home or family? Whatever it is, get it done! I don't know how else to say it except the way God says it. Do it!

"American history shall march along that skyline," announced Gutzon Borglum in 1924, gazing at the Black Hills of South Dakota. In 1927 Borglum began sculpting the images of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, and Theodore Roosevelt on the granite face of 6,000-foot Mount Rushmore. Most of the sculpting was done by experienced miners under Borglum's direction. Working with jackhammers and dynamite, they removed some 400,000 tons of outer rock, cutting within three inches of the final surface. When Borglum died in March 1941, his dream of the world's biggest sculpture was near completion. His son Lincoln finished the work that October, some 14 years after it was begun. It did get done. The work was finished.

- What is your Mount Rushmore?
- What does God want you to finish?
- Are you ready to do it?

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3. The problem we can overcome – "fear not, nor be dismayed."

1 Chronicles 28:20 goes on to say: "And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do *it*: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God,



even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.”

Why don't we get things done? Why do we become frazzled in life and begin to lose our way? Many times, it is because fear and dismay overtake our hearts. Fear and dismay can keep us from doing God's will. We can become caught up in the "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen" syndrome. Fear is very real. Fear means to become scared at what life throws at you. It means to be overcome with dread. Dismay is also very real. The word "dismayed" means to literally "break down" and connotes being filled with confusion and discouragement that begins to overtake and run your life. If we are not careful, we can be overcome by these twin sins. Has this pandemic, communism, the course of America, or some other unexpected trial and hardship brought utter fear and dismay in your heart and life?

Isaiah 41:10 also reminds us:

"Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

This has been my life verse when I entered the ministry. I need to reclaim it and live by it! I need to make it part of my life and so do you. If we don't we will be overcome by the devil, doubts, discouragement, and dismay! Life can take us down! The sin nature can take us down! Our anxieties can take us down! We need God's unchanging strength in our life so that we might overcome the fear and dismay associated with trials, turmoil's, and tests.

- What have you been fearing?
- Has life caught you off guard?
- Are you broken down and filled with despair and dismay?

It's always too soon to quit!

4. The promises of God – "my God, *will be* with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee" (1 Chronicles 28:20)



1 Chronicles 28:20

“And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do *it*: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, *even* my God, *will be* with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.”

There is a threefold promise given to us.

a. God’s presence – “my God, *will be* with thee” – 1 Chronicles 28:20

What a wonderful promise this is! This means that God will always be there for us! He will not let us down. His presence will confirm His power to us. His presence will carry us. His presence will calm us. His presence will cure us from our spiritual ailments such as anxiety and fear.

Genesis 18:14 asks the enduring question:

“Is any thing too hard for the LORD?”

We need a new awareness of God’s presence (“I am with thee” – 1 Chron, 28:20) to refresh us, revitalize, us and reinvigorate us for the journey. We can have victory because God is with us and will enable us to overcome fear and dismay!

Jesus promised in Matthew 28:20:

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

We can overcome our problems, our sins, our failures, and our fears, if we practice the presence of God - “I am with thee” (1 Chron, 28:20). God being with us means something! It means that He will carry us when we need to be carried. It means He will sustain us by His grace so we can go on in life. It means that He will

supernaturally strengthen us, so we don't have to be overcome by fear, anxiety, discouragement, and despair. Through God's presence, and the strength and peace He gives to us, we can be an overcomer instead of living in the defeat of sin, despair, discouragement, and debilitating fears.

"Precious Lord, take my hand
Lead me on, let me stand
I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm lone
Through the storm, through the night
Lead me on to the light
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home."

b. God's perseverance – "he will not fail thee" – 1 Chronicles 28:20

Do we really believe this today? This too is God's promise to us. This means God is preserving in and through our lives, working on our behalf, so that He might enable us to pass through our difficult trials. God is working on our behalf, and no matter what He allows to come into our life, we can be sure that the Lord will be good on this promise. Yes, the greatest promise of all is that He will never fail us. Taking this into the New Testament, we would agree with 2 Corinthians 1:20: "For all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us."

2 Peter 1:3-4 also states:

"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

God will never fail us. What a promise! This speaks of God's perseverance in providing us with grace to go on in life and meeting our deepest needs and longings. He will always be there for us. He will see us through anything that we face in life and He will transform our lives by His grace. We must keep standing on the promise that God will persevere in us, through us, and for us.

“Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
Listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God.”

God's special promise to never fail His children is seen in 1 Thessalonians 5:24: “Faithful *is* he that calleth you, who also will do *it*.” Philippians 1:6 conveys the same truth: “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you (*our past salvation from the penalty of sin = positional sanctification*) will perform it (*our present salvation from the power of sin = progressive sanctification*) until the day of Jesus Christ” (*our future salvation from the presence of sin = perfect sanctification*).

This means God will not fail us! The promise is that God will be there for us, He will strengthen us, change us, and carry us through by making “a way of escape” for us (1 Cor. 10:13). Although there are various ways that God allows us to escape temptations and trials, the way of His strengthening and enabling grace is the primary way. The point is this, “The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations” (2 Pet. 2:9).

“When your world is upside down and it crumbles and falls
And it's so hard to make it through another day.
You've got mountains to move and they seem so tall
But you're not giving up because His promise to save.

God will provide a way,
I know He'll provide a way,
Cause His word is true and He will do it for you,
God will provide a way.
God will make a way!

It may be at the very last moment
When your faith is all that is pulling you through.
It may be in the most unexpected way
But He'll provide an answer for you!

So turn your back to your problems and your face to the Lord
And let Him come and lift your burdens away.
As you pass through the night and your days turn to sight
You'll have been there before so you'll know just what to say.

God will provide a way,
I know He'll provide a way
Cause His word is true and He will do it for you
God will provide, I know He'll provide a way.
God will provide a way!"

This is the message of God for us today. God will never fail us! Never! God will never shortchange us or hang us out to dry. He will never forget about us. He will always fulfill this specific promise in relation to our daily lives. God will always be there for us and carry us through. God is faithful to His children.

Lamentations 3:22-23 says:

"It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."

c. God's pledge - "nor forsake thee" – 1 Chronicles 28:20

This is the third promise we can claim from this verse.

Hebrews 13:5 declares:

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

- ✓ God will not leave us during our trials.
- ✓ God will not leave us when we are hurting.
- ✓ God will not leave us when we are emotionally and physically drained.
- ✓ God will not leave us when our life is ending.

Psalm 23:4

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

- Have you been doubting God’s faithfulness and love for you?
- Do you need to reconfirm God’s promises again for your own life?
- Are you ready to tarry at God’s promise so He can meet you there?

I will never leave thee! This means that God is there for us! God is ready to receive us! In fact, God has always been with us even when our life was not in tune with His will. As a Christian, we sometimes can get out of sync with His purpose and way for our life. But one thing is certain, God will always be there for us, waiting to reacquaint Himself with us and restore our fellowship with Him (1 John 1:9).

“He was there all the time
 He was there all the time
 Waiting patiently in line
 He was there all the time!”

It’s always too soon to quit!

5. The personal optimism for the future - “until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.”

1 Chronicles 28:20

“And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do *it*: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, *even* my God, *will be* with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.”



David was reminding Solomon that God would be with Him and help him to accomplish His will in rebuilding the temple. In reminding Solomon about this, David wants his son to remain optimistic about the future. He would finish the work God intended him to do. God would bless him and allow Solomon to get the job done! This reminds us that we too should have optimism and a spiritual spark in our hearts regarding the future and what God wants us to accomplish through our lives. We need to rekindle the flame once again in our hearts to do God’s will and

stop playing around with the world, the flesh, and the devil. We need to stop doubting and start believing in God's power and the things God wants to accomplish in our life, with our life, and through of our life.

We can and should be very optimistic when it comes to seeing God work in our own personal life, the lives of others, and even our church ministry. We need to be optimistic that God will carry us through, that God will bless us, that God will move, that God will enable us to finish what He wants us to do. Optimism is opposite of pessimism. Many times we become way too pessimistic about what God can do and about the future in general. Especially in times like these when communism is knocking on the door of America, when we are bombarded with a Chinese virus, and when we are unsure about the future, we need to remain spiritually optimistic in what God can and will do through our lives, even when things are drastically changing around us.



Philippians 4:13

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Spiritual optimism (confidence and hope that comes from God) is important for our personal lives and church ministry, during times like these, and at all times. We need

to be careful that we don't get into the doldrums of doubt, dismay, and denial. We cannot live there and be effective for God. Faith is spiritual optimism at work. David promised Solomon that he would finish the task God wanted him to do. The same is true for us. God promises that we can finish what He has called us to do. This should breed faith and spiritual optimism in our hearts and lives.

We need a fresh stirring. We need this kind of spiritual outlook and optimism, hopefulness, and assurance today, so we can go on and do God's will for our life and church ministry. We need spiritual optimism so we might continue to serve the Lord faithfully, dynamically, and expectantly. Be careful, prayerful, and watchful (Mark 14:38). We can all become filled with dismay and doubt. Instead of moaning and groaning, we must remember about God's presence and power and be filled with great hope for today and bright hope for tomorrow!

All of this means that I should never quit! It's always too soon to quit! This is not pop-psychology – it is God's psychology!

- Have you quit living a dedicated Christian life in some specific area?
- Do you feel like quitting or giving up?
- Are you quitting because you are too busy to do God's will?
- Are you throwing in the towel because of the difficult times?
- Why would you want to quit living for and serving the Most High God?

God's Word repeatedly reminds us to never quit!

1 Corinthians 15:58

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

I remember being at a boring anniversary church banquet many years ago. I was still a teen. The speaker came up after the meal to bring a message. He seemed soft-spoken at first. I thought to myself, "Boring!" Then suddenly, with a thundering voice and great fiery zeal and compassion, he quoted 1 Corinthians 15:58. He caught my attention, and I still remember this message to this day. And the message He gave from this passage was this: "Don't Quit."

DON'T QUIT

“When things go wrong as they sometime will,
When the road your trudging seems all up hill,
When funds are low and debts are high,
And you want to smile but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit
Rest if you must but please don't quit.

Life is strange with its twists and turns
As every one of us sometimes learn
And many a failure turns about
When we might have won if we'd stuck it out.
Don't give up though the pace seems slow
You may succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than
It seems to a faint and faltering man,
Often the struggler has given up,
When he might have captured the victor's cup,
And learned to late as the night slipped down
How close he was to that victor's crown.

Success is failure turned inside out,
The silver tent of the clouds of doubt,
And you can never tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems so far.
So, stick to the fight when you're hardest hit.
It's when things seem worse that
YOU MUST NOT QUIT."

(author is unknown)

The message of David to Solomon was this: "It's always too soon to quit." This is what God is saying to us today. Let's take God's advice, move out for Him, stay engaged, trust in His sufficiency and power, and die with our boots on!

