

Making a Determined Effort Faith and Spiritual Warfare

In this message I want to talk about *the importance of making a determined effort* in everything that we are involved in, **both** spiritual and natural.

Determination is a necessary part of our spiritual warfare & our walk with the Lord. **We will not endure to the end without it.**

You can have plenty of vision, insight and purpose, but **without determination** you **will not** get the job done.

When your vision and purpose fail,

- **Your determination must** kick in to keep you going *in the midst of doubt and uncertainty*.

****The difference between the impossible and the possible lies in a person's Determination!!!***

Proverbs 4:23-27 - NIV

23 Above all else, **guard your heart**, for everything you do flows from it.

24 Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips.

25 Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you.

26 **Give careful thought** to **the paths for your feet** and be steadfast in all your ways. 27 **Do not** turn to the right or the left; **keep your foot from evil**.

Determination Definition:

Determination is the inner fortitude and strength of Character – **being disciplined to remain consistent, strong and diligent** regardless of the odds or the demands.

- It is the **act of deciding** definitely and firmly, or coming to a resolve.
- **Determination is** **acting in faith** - - -
- When we **temporarily lose sight** of where we are going.

Without determination - - -

- We will find ourselves **being tossed** here and there and **beat to a pulp** **when the enemy comes against us**.
- When the pressure is on we will find ourselves **reacting in a way** that is **contradictory to what we believe**.

DETERMINATION becomes obsession and then it becomes **ALL that matters.**

We must have the **inner fortitude and strength of character** to remain consistent, strong and diligent ***regardless of the odds or the demands.***

Determination Is An Important Part Of Our Spiritual Warfare.

1 Corinthians 16:13 - NIV

¹³ Be on your guard; **stand firm in the faith**; be courageous; be strong.

Ephesians 6:13 - NIV

¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

The thing that we must realize is

- The **devil** is making a **determined effort towards us**
- If he is **more determined** to keep us from **moving forward** in God
- Than we are - **he will win.**

1. The Example of Manasseh and the Canaanites.

God had given all the tribes of Israel **the command to go forth** into the promised land and to drive out all of its inhabitants out.

- He not only **commanded them**
- But **promised them** that He would help them.

Joshua 1:9 - NIV

⁹ Have I not commanded you? **Be strong and courageous.** Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your **God will be with you wherever you go.**"

With this promise the children of Israel were to go forth **conquering all of the inhabitants of the Promised Land.**

We find that **this did not happen** in all cases, **because of the determination of their enemies** to continue to dwell in the land.

Joshua 17:12-13 - NIV

¹² Yet the Manassites were not able to occupy these towns, for **the Canaanites were determined** to live in that region.

¹³ However, when the Israelites grew stronger, they subjected the Canaanites to forced labor but **did not** drive them out completely.

The reason the children of Manasseh **were not able** to drive the Canaanites completely out of the land was because **they lacked the determination** to do so.

The Canaanites **were more determined** to stay than the Tribe of Manasseh was to drive them out.

2. **Through a Determined Effort, We Are to Drive Out Our Enemies.**

How many of us *give place to the devil*, because **we lack the determination to completely drive him out of our lives?**

- *God has given* us **the authority** and **the power** to *defeat the enemy*.

Luke 10:19 - NIV

¹⁹ **I have given you authority** to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

We all have strongholds in our lives that **the enemy is trying to hold on to** with a determined effort.

- The thing that **we have to realize** is that - - -
- We must have more of a **determined effort than the enemy**
- Realizing that **greater is He** *who is in us than he who is in the world*.

1 John 4:4 - NIV

⁴ You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because **the one who is in you** is greater than the one who is in the world.

The **enemy doesn't give up that easily**.

- He is **determined**
- So therefore you must realize that **it takes a determined effort** to defeat him.

We are wrestling against - - - THE POWERS OF THIS DARK WORLD!!!

Ephesians 6:12-13 -NIV

¹² For our struggle **is not** against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that **when the day of evil comes**, you may be able to **stand** your ground, and after you have done everything, to **stand**. Many Christians **fail** in many areas because **they fail to make a determined effort**.

- Marriages, children, jobs, business, ministry, bondage to sin, and prayer life **are areas that the enemy wants to continue to dwell in.**
- **Are you letting him, simply because he is more determined than you are?**

Do you have the inner fortitude and strength of character

- To remain **consistent - Strong and diligent**
- **Regardless of the odds or the demands - - -**
- That are being **placed upon you** in these areas?

Without determination you will find yourselves being beat to a pulp **when the enemy** comes against you.

When the pressure is on you will find yourselves **reacting in a way that is contradictory** to **what you really believe**.

1 Peter 5:8-9 - NIV

⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. **Your enemy the devil** prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

⁹ **Resist** him, **standing firm** in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

The Kingdom Is Extended Through Determination.

The Example Of Solomon Being Determined To Build The Temple.

2 Chronicles 2:1 – NIV - Preparations for Building the Temple

2 Solomon gave orders to build a temple for the Name of the Lord and a royal palace for himself.

The kingdom that was established under Solomon's reign was the ***greatest and most glorious of all the kingdoms of the earth.***

- I'm sure that Solomon had his obstacles that he faced along the way.
- But **he was determined** to complete the task he had been given.
- Regardless of the obstacles set before him!!

We Too Must Be Determined To See The Kingdom Extended.

Matthew 11:12 - NIV

¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it.

We must make a determined effort in establishing the kingdom of God in our midst.

We have experienced many defeats, setbacks, discouragements and other hindrances, but we must be like the apostle Paul who said - - -

Acts 20:24 "But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

CLOSE:

A page from John Wesley's Diary reads as follows:

- Sunday morning, May 5, preached in St. Ann's, was asked not to come back.
- Sunday p.m., May 5, preached at St. John's, deacons said, "Get out."
- Sunday a.m., May 12, preached at St. Jude's, can't go back there either.
- Sunday p.m., May 12, preached at St. George's, kicked out again.
- Sunday a.m., May 19, preached at St. somebody else's, deacons called special meeting and said I couldn't return.
- Sunday p.m., May 19, preached on the street, kicked off the street.
- Sunday a.m., May 26, preached in meadow, chased out of meadow as a bull was turned loose during the services.
- Sunday a.m., June 2, preached out at the edge of town, kicked off the highway.
- Sunday p.m., June 2, afternoon service, preached in a pasture, ***10,000 people came to hear me.***

THAT'S Making a determined effort!!!!

- **But none of these things move me**

Harold Sherman wrote a book entitled, "**How To Turn Failure Into Success.**"

In it he gives a **code of persistence.**

He says:

- I will **never give up** so long as I know I am right.
- I will believe that **all things will work out** for me if I hang on to the end.
- I will be **courageous and undismayed** in the face of odds.
- I will not permit anyone to **intimidate or deter** me from my goals.
- I will fight to overcome **all physical handicaps** and **setbacks.**
- I will try **again and again and yet again** to accomplish what I desire.
- I will take **new faith and resolution** from the knowledge that all successful men and women have **had to fight defeat and adversity.**
- I will never **surrender to discouragement** or **despair** no matter what seeming **obstacles** may confront me.

Make a determined effort!!!!

- Never surrender to **discouragement** –
- **Defeat adversity!!!!**

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT!!!!!!

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 – NIV - The Need for Self-Discipline

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? **Run in such a way as to get the prize.**

²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but **we do it to get a crown that will last forever.**

²⁶ Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air.

²⁷ No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

WHO CAN STOP YOU????

Philippians 4:13 – NIV - ¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

WHEN IN HARD TIMES!!!!!!

Exodus 14:14 – NIV - ¹⁴ **The Lord will fight for you**; you need only to be still.”

Making a determined effort!!!!

PERSEVERE no matter what stay determined!!!!

My prayer is that you would come to the place in your life - - -

- Where you have more **determination** than the enemy
- in dealing with your issues and
- **moving forward in faith**
- towards the destiny God has for you.