

Persevering Patriots

If you are a patriot, you are probably feeling weary in the battle right about now. Today I want to encourage you to keep up the fight. We are fighting for the life of America, but we are also fighting for the goodness and righteousness of God and His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven (according to **Matthew 6:10**).

Since America was established on the word of God, as we fight for America we are fighting for the word of God to dominate the lives of its citizens. We're not simply fighting so that we can boast of our country in the Olympics or so that our political party can be large and in charge. We are fighting against the evil that is dominant right now. That should impact all of us.

In a speech in 1941, **Winston Churchill** said:

"...never give in, never give in, never, never, never - in nothing, great or small, large or petty - never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense." Oct. 29, 1941

He understood the importance of perseverance against evil in the fight against the National Socialists of Germany. The Nazi empire was one of the most evil in history. We have discovered that Nazi leaders had even recognized that the reason for their evil rise was their neglect of God as Hans Frank stated at the Nuremberg Trials.

The apostle Paul knew what it was to fight evil. He, in fact, "switched sides" after his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus in **Acts 9**. He had been on the side of evil, then he changed to the side of good. During his ministry he faced the same kind of evil he had portrayed, and fought to advance the kingdom of God on earth. He fought to establish the lives of people on the word of God. Righteousness and goodness would be seen instead of godlessness and chaos.

Here is what Paul said to encourage us in **Galatians 6:7-10** (ESV):

⁷ Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹ And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Paul says to keep on doing good. Eventually everything we do will come to fruition. I know it's frustrating right now. Things seem to be going against us. It feels like evil is victorious on every front. Paul would say, "Keep going."

General George Washington must have wondered about the fight for independence and liberty. He must have wondered if we would ever succeed. He faced obstacles on every side like few volunteers and few who wanted to continue in the fight. Yet he persisted. Then successes began to occur like the victory over the Hessians in Trenton, New Jersey on Christmas Day, 1776. Just one week before the Continental Army was on the verge of collapse and the cause seemed doomed. 2400 troops went with General Washington, 3000 less than they had planned, because two detachments were unable to cross the icy waters. They defeated the Hessians with insignificant casualties. Such a victory ignited or reignited a spirit of patriotism among Americans.

The turning point of the War for Independence came at the battle of Saratoga in 1777. It seems that from then on, Washington and the Continental Army gained victories that culminated at the surrender of Cornwallis on October 19, 1781 at Yorktown.

Those victories led to our independence. Yet, they did not come quickly or easily. They came with the perseverance of those involved.

We are up against the ungodly and the unpatriotic. They seem to be winning by suppressing truth and by stealing an election. So, how do we keep going when we are discouraged or doubt?

1. **Believe in the cause.** As believers, we believe in the kingdom of God. We believe that we are here to advance His kingdom. His kingdom takes on many forms, but the bottom line reflects His kingship, His rule. Jesus points this out as He teaches us to pray in **Matthew 6:9-10**.
2. **Keep hope in that cause alive.** Hope often is all that carries us through. Hope is not wishful thinking but faith-based assurance of what is coming. **Romans 8:24-25** (ESV) remind us of what is ahead:
²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.
3. **Act by faith.** God's friend, Abraham did that very thing. Those who fought for our independence did, and so can we. **James 2:18** (ESV) shows the importance of putting faith into action:
¹⁸But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.
4. **Trust God** daily. **Psalm 9:10** (ESV) reads:
And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.

Don't give up. Stay the course. Do what you can because no one else can do what you can do.

Keep The Light of Perseverance Burning!