

### 69.3 Don't Quit

1 Samuel 30:6 (NKJV):

**“David strengthened himself in the LORD.”**

Let me tell you about Donzella Washington, who walked across the stage to receive her bachelor's degree in social work at Alabama A&M University in December 2019. She graduated *magna cum laude* and became A&M's oldest graduate at eighty. “Even though there were a lot of tears and late-night studying at 1 or 2 a.m., I was determined. I never felt like quitting,” she said. Now Donzella plans to work on her master's degree and volunteer at nursing homes.<sup>1</sup>

Donzella Washington is an unusual woman. Most of us want to quit our tasks at one time or another, but she finished her courses, literally. Many of God's servants in scripture felt like quitting: Moses, Jonah, Jeremiah, and Elijah, to name a few.

We are in a monumental struggle for the soul of America and the souls of Americans. Too many people are blind to the reality of losing our inalienable rights and, worse, the loss of their souls. People want to rock along as though nothing is wrong and everything will work out without lifting a finger to make it so. The challenge is so great that it tempts us to quit.

If you are weary in this battle, maybe it is because **“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12, NKJV)**. The spiritual battle is, in many ways, more complex than the physical. Sometimes the spiritual spills over into the material, as when David dealt with King Saul. David had to stay on the run physically to stay ahead of Saul as both men dealt with their spiritual issues. Don't you know, the temptation for David to kill Saul was mighty in his spirit? Yet, he would not destroy God's anointed, no matter how deserving he was.

If Satan can so discourage us that we quit the battle, he wins a victory, whether about going to heaven or winning the soul of America. The key to David's success was strengthening himself IN THE LORD. We know there was another time when he failed to do that and yielded his spirit and body to the temptation with Bathsheba. But, when we find strength in the LORD, we can conquer temptation and finish the task God has set before us.

How do we strengthen ourselves in the LORD? One way is through sincere prayer. Our prayers are declarations of our dependence on God, not our independence from Him. When we pray, the Holy Spirit can unleash His presence and power in our lives to energize us for the task ahead. On our strength, we will fail, but empowered by God's Spirit; we cannot.

Prayer leads us to the presence of Christ, and we have all we need in Him. If we disconnect from the LORD, we will lose our perspective, as did the Hebrews. Notice **Jeremiah 50:6 (NKJV)**:

**“My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have led them astray; They have turned them away on the mountains. They have gone from mountain to hill; They have forgotten their resting place.**

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<sup>1</sup> Chonda Temple, “Meet Donzella Washington, the Oldest Graduate at Alabama A&M at 80,” *BirminghamTimes.com*, December 26, 2019.

We “rest in Christ” and His promises. Even though our friends and families may support and encourage us in these times, we need the presence of the LORD. In **Exodus 33:14** (NKJV), God told Moses:

**“My Presence will go *with you*, and I will give you rest.”**

Moses had his family, the elders of Israel, his servant Joshua, and the Israelite host, but God was the key. As long as he stayed connected to God, things went well for Israel and Moses, but tragic things happened when he waivered through burnout and frustration.

We can strengthen ourselves in the LORD because we know His promises to be with us in passages like **Matthew 28:20** and **Hebrews 13:5-6**. How can we think we can get away from Him? God intends always to be present to lead us, as He points out in **Psalms 139:7-10** (NKJV):

**<sup>7</sup> Where can I go from Your Spirit?**

**Or where can I flee from Your presence?**

**<sup>8</sup> If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there;**

**If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*.**

**<sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning,**

**And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**

**<sup>10</sup> Even there Your hand shall lead me,**

**And Your right hand shall hold me.**

We can strengthen ourselves through our prayers, His presence, and promises. The word of God is vital in our work because it reassures us when we doubt or are down. Let me give you a few more passages to encourage you to keep up the fight and not quit.

**Hebrews 12:1** (NKJV):

**Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,**

**Galatians 6:9** (NKJV):

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

**1 Corinthians 9:24** (NKJV):

**Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain *it*.**

**2 Timothy 4:7** (NKJV):

**I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.**

**1 Peter 1:13** (NKJV):

**Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;**

I’m tired right now, and you may be, too. Let’s make a pact that we won’t stop. Let’s encourage one another to “occupy” or “do business” until Jesus comes or He calls us home. We are here for this season, don’t quit!

Let’s Keep The Light of *Completing Our Calling* Burning!