



I Will Not Faint

How is it possible to face life's traumas without despair, without fainting, without quitting, without giving up or surrendering? The Psalmist clearly defines the answer. ¹ It is captured in the phrase "God is good." When we understand the goodness of God, we will not faint because He has the answer that meets our need. We know he longs to provide this solution to our dilemma. If we faint, we lose heart, we become discouraged, we are dispirited, and we can't cope. We say, "That's it. I've had it." We sing, "Nobody loves me. Everybody hates me. Guess I'll go eat worms. Big fat juicy ones, little bitty skinny ones, guess I'll go eat worms." ² I don't suppose you know that song.

The goodness of God is more than an attitude. It is beyond sympathy which feels regret or distress for another. It is an action based on my need. The Psalmist opens our eyes to this great truth saying, "You [God] are good and do only good." ³ Jesus Himself said, "How much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him." ⁴ In these verses, you can see the actions of God. He will "do." He will "give." These are not just thoughts of

sympathy, but words of action.

Through the story of the Good Samaritan, we recognize the necessity of action. ⁵ The Good Samaritan bound up the wounds of a man who had been robbed and beaten. He brought him to an inn and took care of him. His deeds surpassed a sympathetic glance or a moment of distress. He took action. He did "something." Like our God, he was working, solving, and pursuing with great passion.

Our God "delights in mercy".

Often, our "doing" never goes beyond words. We speak with great commitment, but fail to act. The Apostle John encourages us saying, "Let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." ⁶ I do not believe he is minimizing the importance of our words. He is prodding us to be an extension of God's love and power. Words are not enough. We must "do." If God only "patted us on the back" and said, "I am so sorry," where would we be today?

Certainly, our great God speaks compassionately, but He also responds to our need when we call upon Him. We have this promise from the Holy Spirit in the words of Jesus. "Ask

and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." ⁷ God desires to answer our prayer and help us because He is gracious. The word "gracious" means that one "bends and stoops in kindness" and is eager to bless you. ⁸

My grandmother was a gracious lady. She always wanted to do something for you. If you visited her just after breakfast, there were leftover biscuits. If you arrived before lunch, you must stay and eat lunch. If you could not stay to eat with them, she had a small gift for you to take home. She was gracious. One day she offered me her very small slippers. I could see that they were new and, of course, not my size. I had to refuse over and over again because her heart longed to be a blessing. She could not imagine my leaving empty-handed.

God extends Himself to us with this same yearning. He is not reluctant to help us. In fact, He is watching for an opportunity to "display His strength on behalf of those whose heart is full of integrity." ⁹ He is the "strong support of those whose hearts are true to Him" ¹⁰ and "gives mastery where He finds hearts that have utter faith in Him." ¹¹

Our God "delights in mercy." ¹² When you delight in something, you cherish it. This phenomenal truth sets our heart to dancing. Our gracious and merciful God loves us! He cherishes us! He delights in assisting us, pouring into our lives blessings that are "exceeding abundantly above all we could ask or think." Because of His goodness, we cannot lose. The adversities of life cannot destroy us. We will not faint, quit, or surrender. The God of compassion is for us, and His mercy endures forever.



I Will Not Faint

I will not faint in times of famine because:

"I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." Psalms 37:25

I will not faint *during days of sickness* because: "by [Jesus'] stripes [I was] healed." 1 Peter 2:24

I will not faint in seasons of persecution because:

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." Psalm 34:19

I will not faint during moments of danger because:

"he shall give his angels charge over [me], to keep [me] in all [my] ways." Psalms 91:11

I will not faint in hours of sorrow because:

"the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort" strengthens me. 2 Corinthians 1:3

I will not faint after confession of disobedience because:

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

I will not faint during years of hard work because:

"we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9

I will not faint after words of correction because:

"it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness" Hebrews 12:11



¹ Psalms 27:13

² "Guess I'll Go Eat Worms" Unknown Author, Possible publisher Charles Scribner's Sons, 1909; also, V.C. Anderson artist

³ Psalms 119:68 NLT

⁴ Matthew 7:11

⁵ Luke 10:30-37

⁶ 1 John 3:18

⁷ Matthew 7:7, Luke 11:9 ⁸ H2603, Strong's Exhaustive

[°] H2603, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance by James

Strong, S.T.D., LL.D., 1890. ⁹ 2 Chronicles 16:9 BER

¹⁰ 2 Chronicles 16:9 Bas

¹¹ 2 Chronicles 16:9 Knox

¹² Micah 7:18

¹³ 1 Chronicles 16:34; Psalms 106:1; Psalms 118