

“The Value Of The Prize”

By Mrs. Sojourner

One of my favorite gospel singers, John Hall, said something recently that caused me to ponder. He said, “The value of the prize is greater than the struggle.”



Notes:

[a] Matt.
28:20

While I pondered this quote, the Lord brought to my mind Hebrews, the eleventh chapter. The whole chapter applies, but the following quote in particular:

35Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection.
36Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison.
37They were stoned^[1]; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—
38the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.
39These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. Hebrews 11:35-39 (NIV)

These people went through horrible things, for their faith, but did not despair. They went to their death not

receiving the promise, but they did not despair because they knew the secret Mr. Hall shared: “The value of the prize is greater than the struggle.”

I am saying that we are to live in misery or pain, but we all will face challenges. Let us remember that every time we are in a spiritual battle, it is worth the effort. Every verbal, or physical, slap in the face we receive, *because* of the name of Christ, is worth it because of the prize that is ours.

If the struggle seems too difficult, go to Hebrews 11 and remind yourself of how those that went before us persevered, and the Lord never abandoned them. He has promised that he will not abandon us either.^(a) So hold on to God’s promises and press on toward the prize!

The Sojourner
Sojourner's Fellowships
717-C West High Street
Manchester, TN 37355-1694

Phone: 931-409-1406
Toll Free: 800-391-6944

Email:
thesojourner@sojournershub.org



Sojourning

Vol. 6 No. 10 March 11, 2007

...with The Sojourner

“Determination, Resurrected!” (Teaching Sketch)

1 Corinthians 15:35-49 (NIV)



What has been determined for you in eternity? What has been determined^[1] by you as your life's remembrance? What do you see as you reflect on the days past. How have events fit with your first pictures of how your life would be?

What Grows

What grows is what was planted! Only what you determine^[2] to and plant will grow if cared for and nurtured. When you plant the seeds of a garden, no matter if flower or vegetable, the only thing you will harvest from the seed is what was planted.

What grows in your life is what you plant. Oh yes, weeds may pop up where you don't want weeds but it is your responsibility to rid your own garden of your weeds.

Many people haphazardly scatter their seed without regard to what they sow or where they sow. A chaos is the result of such sowing with the Sower then often wishing someone would help them out of their own created chaos. This type

Notes:

[1] Determine = to settle or decide (a dispute, question, etc.) by an authoritative or conclusive decision.

[2] to come to a decision or resolution; decide.

[3] Luke 14:23

of Sower will often be like Adam in the Garden of Eden, his own garden given him by the Creator, himself. Adam claiming to be the victim of deception or some other external force deflected guilt. This type of Sower then looks for some other external force to fix the problem in their garden. The remark often heard from Believers is, “I am trusting God to take care of this. I am walking in faith.”

Yes, certainly, God will intervene to help because he loves us. There are certain things God expects us to take care of by following the rules of good gardening, His rules.

God will perform miracles and does, but miracles are not the sort of things we are to live our lives on, when it is in our power and scope to tend to things ourselves. God has blessed us and given us authority and ability.

Jesus said, “Go into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.”^[3] He did not say, “Just sit there

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 15:35-49 (NIV)

The Resurrection Body

35But someone may ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?" 36How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. 38But God gives it a body as he has **determined**, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. 39All flesh is not the same: Men have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. 40There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. 41The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.

Notes:

[a]
1 Co-
rinthian
s 15:49
Some
early
manu-
scripts
so let
us

42So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 43it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"^[e]; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. 46The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. 47The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. 48As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. 49And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we^[a] bear the likeness of the man from heaven.

"Determination, Resurrected!" (Teaching Sketch)

1 Corinthians 15:35-49 (NIV)

and I will send them in from the highways and hedges and compel them to come in so your church building will be full and you will look spiritual."

Blessings Overtake You!

God's blessings overtake the Believer as the Believer operates, not vegetates!

It is necessary to operate using the gifts you have been given and facilitative miracles will be performed by God showing and proving you are under his blessing. Restorative miracles will be, and are, done by God, even if you miss the mark in your sojourn through. It is, however, many times better to have and see facilitative miracles then restorative miracles.

Both types of miracles are good and necessary, but when you look back on your life and the seeds you had determined to plant but drifted from doing so, how sad to see only restorative miracles.

Just step back into the planting of seed, in the garden of your life, that you had determined to plant when you first believed in Jesus Christ. Allow our Lord to do the facilitative miracles which bless your seeds into a full harvest.

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Comments & Questions**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

