

In Galatians 6:9-10, the Apostle Paul, under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, warns Christians against quitting. He tells us that though we may become weary while “well doing,” we should still take advantage of all our opportunities to do good.

Vince Lombardi, the legendary coach of the Green Bay Packers, a team that won 5 NFL championships in 9 seasons, famously said, “Fatigue makes cowards of us all.” Lombardi was speaking about a player’s failure to train and condition his body for the game of football. But I suggest that Christians, ill-trained and out of shape, spiritually speaking, are at risk of quitting when life gets tough.

Perhaps some Christians think that they are to swing in a hammock with a cold drink in one hand and a fan in the other until Jesus calls them home. But this is not so. Long before the Ice Bowl, where Dallas played Green Bay for the NFL championship in -14F weather, there was the blisteringly hot training camp in August, where Lombardi stressed physical preparedness and mental toughness.

Does the Lord use similar methods? Think about some of the giants of the faith. Noah spent nearly a century building a big boat. Abraham waited 25 years for his promised child to be born. Joseph was a slave or in prison for 13 years. Moses spent 40 years on the far side of a desert. In the New Testament, though Paul was nearly blind, he travelled the Mediterranean world with the gospel.

Consider King David. His brothers were jealous of him. His wife despised him. David’s employer tried to harm him physically. His co-workers became so angry that David feared for his life. His most trusted adviser betrayed him. His son tried to kill him. And David totally blew it when he committed adultery with Uriah’s wife and then had him killed. Yet, afterwards, David didn’t quit.

And consider Peter. Peter promised Jesus even to die with Him. Yet, we know that Peter denied even knowing Jesus. And Peter denied the Lord to a slave girl, a person on the very lowest rung of that society. Not even to a slave girl, would Peter acknowledge Jesus. Afterwards, did Peter quit? No. We only need read the book of Acts and 1 and 2 Peter to see what happened to Peter after Jesus’ resurrection.

The Lord knows we get tired. He remembers that we are dust. That’s why He reminds us: don’t quit well doing.

Galatians tells us that “in due season we shall reap if we faint not.” Our reward may be delayed, but it is coming. Even Jesus on the cross looked forward to such reaping. Hebrews 12:2 says that “for the joy that was set before Him [Jesus] endured the cross.” It’s hard now, but it will be worth it!