

Just One More

1 Corinthians 15:58

Hacksaw Ridge was a true-life movie set during the Battle of Okinawa in World War II. It featured Army medic Desmond T. Doss who refused to carry a weapon because of his Christian convictions. When his unit was forced to retreat from Hacksaw Ridge, hundreds of wounded soldiers were left behind, but, while others withdrew, Doss *stayed*. Again and again, he crawled into enemy fire, located wounded men, dragged them to the edge of the ridge, and lowered them to safety with a rope. Each time he returned into danger, he prayed a simple prayer: *"Lord, help me get just one more."* One more soldier, one more rescue, one more life saved - and by the end of the battle, he had rescued seventy-five men.

The Spirit is saying this to us today: *"Don't quit. Don't stop. Don't settle." Lord, help me reach just one more* - that's the heart cry of someone who has decided that they're going to give their life, their fortune, and their sacred honor for a cause that's bigger than them. And now, while we see that heroism in wars and in rescues, the same spirit that surrounds people like this is the spirit that says *"Just one more. I'm not going to settle for being still. I'm not going to settle for sitting in the bleachers when I can be out on the field playing the game. I don't want to give up. I don't want to coast in life, because there's just one more person to be saved."*

There's something about faith that rises up in us that wants to say, *"I don't want this life to be wasted. I want to tell my story to others. I want to share what happened to me, because I realize that in the midst of it all I can't change anything, and I have to trust and depend on God. And I want to tell people that."* That's the spirit of *"just one more - I want to tell people what I've been through. I want to help somebody. Just one more - just one more conversation - just one more opportunity to say something to somebody. Just one more."*

When we're talking about the spirit of what it means to operate with that mentality of "just one more," the number one thing is to *stand firm*. There comes a time in our lives when we have to stand firm. We have to not quit before seeing the miracle. How many times have we given up and quit just before the breakthrough? Just before dawn was coming up, the sun was going to rise, but we gave up, we stopped praying, we got weary while doing good. Scripture says, *"Don't do that - don't grow weary while doing good."* And yet we do. We get tired. We get exhausted. We get distracted. We quit before seeing the miracle.

Some of us right now are fighting a battle and we don't feel like we're winning. But, we need to know something. We and God are a *majority*. His timing may not line up with ours - it very rarely does - but that doesn't mean it's over. 1 Corinthians 15:58 says we're to "stand firm" - let nothing move us. As we say to ourself, and declare God's Word over our life, something shifts inside of us - our brain hears what we say, but also our *spirit* hears what we say. *"Stand firm. Stand firm, self. Stand firm. Let nothing move you."*

The enemy's strategy is often discouragement, distraction, and fatigue. Sometimes we just get *distracted*. There's so much going on, and a day goes by - and two days - and *three* days, then, *"Wow, I haven't even cracked my Bible open. I haven't even really prayed. I mean, I've just been busy going and going."* And that's when the enemy moves in with one of his greatest and most powerful tools. His weapon is not to stand in front of us with his horns and a pitchfork and go *"Boo!"* in the middle of the night. It's usually to just *distract* us and get us off of the mission.

It's *distraction* and *discouragement*. To be *discouraged* means the opposite of *encourage*, which means *to inspire courage*. To be *dis-couraged* means to have it taken away. And when we lose our courage - we're *discouraged* - we go through things feeling like God didn't show up, or things aren't working out, or there is *no way* we're going to get through this. If there's anything we can learn from studying about our founding fathers in America, it's that they had a *just-one-more* mentality. They had the same sense of that beautiful picture of George Washington kneeling in the snow at Valley Forge, praying for his men - crying out to God.

Rick Green reminded us that the man who actually witnessed that event and made a painting out of it said that he was so moved that he actually switched from cheering for the British to cheering for Americans, because he said *"If a man can pray to God like that, God will hear him and I want to be on the right side of this."* That's the heart of that attitude. We've learned by reading the history of our nation and its heroes the fact that they wouldn't quit. They wouldn't give up - and many of them lost their lives because of it. They were *encouraged* and not *discouraged*.

Many people stop one prayer too soon - one invitation too soon - one act of obedience too soon. Our breakthrough is most often just on the other side of obeying the *last* thing God told us to do. This is one of those things we have to remind ourself, that whenever things get slow in the spirit and we feel like things aren't moving, or we're not seeing things, or we're not getting through to something and wondering, *"What's going on? Why is this not working? What's not happening? Why am I not experiencing movement in the spirit and my heart? Why is the Word not alive?"* Nine times out of ten, it's because the Lord is waiting on *us* to go back, recover, and do the last thing he told us to do.

Our obedience has a way of creating a wall between our breakthrough and where we're standing. So, *one more act of obedience* - maybe that will be our breakthrough. God is looking for believers who will stay in position, and stay the course - for "just one more."

Galatians 6:9

"Let us not become weary in doing good. For at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

That scripture is loaded to be just one sentence long. First of all, we don't grow weary in doing good. Goodness is a fruit of the Spirit - Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control. It is a fruit of the Spirit, not the fruit of our flesh. It's *of the Spirit*, but it manifests *through us*. And when we're walking with the Spirit - in lock step with him - guess what comes out? Goodness. Goodness comes out. *"Don't grow weary in doing good."* Don't get tired. Don't get exhausted. *"For at the proper time..."* When's the proper time? It's whenever God decides it is.

We shouldn't let that discourage us, but rather let it encourage us. That means he's got us *at the proper time*. And there will be one. We will reap a harvest *if we do not* give up - if we stay the course - *just one more*. Just one more. *Push it* just one more time. Push it again - just one more. And then it's like there's a drive that happens when we take on this spirit of "just one more." It pushes us through when we're tired, distracted, and exhausted.

Hebrews 10:36 NIV

"You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised."

We need to *persevere*. What does *persevere* mean? Stay the course. Continue to press on. We need to persevere so that when we have done the will of God, we will receive what he has promised. Our breakthrough is on the other side of doing the will of God - of being obedient. Our breakthrough is on the other side of *obedience*. *"Just one more . Stay the course."*

James 1:12

"Blessed is the man who perseveres [stays the course, has a just one more mentality under trial] because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him."

That crown of life is not a *gold* crown. It's not like what we think in terms of a *king's* crown. It was actually a wreath presented to the winner of the athletic games. They didn't use metal crowns, but a wreath that represented life and the circle of life and victory. That's what we receive when we persevere under trial and we stay in and stand the test. This is where it works in real life - keep praying. Pray and *keep on praying*. *Stay the course. Just one more. Keep believing. Don't give up short of the finish line.*

A lot of times when we pray, we think it's a "No" if something doesn't happen *immediately*. But more often than not, it's not a "No," it's a "Not yet." It's a "*not now*." There are things right now where we're stuck in the "not yet, not now." But, we've given up because we thought it was a "*No, not ever*." And God wants us to know to stay on it. The Scripture says, "*Ask and it will be given you. Seek and you'll find. Knock and the door will be open to you.*" Literally the construct in the Greek language means "*ask and keep on asking. Seek and keep on seeking. Knock and keep on knocking and the door will be open.*"

So it's on the *other side*. We have to *press in*. Sometimes we need to *push*. That means pray until something happens. Push. *Push through*. The harvest often belongs to those who simply refuse to quit. We may not be the greatest athlete on the field, we just need to be the most stubborn athlete. There's a strategy to this game. It's not just going out and hitting people. It's not because we're the smartest or the biggest out there. It's that we've determined in our heart that we're not going to give up.

Just because things don't work doesn't mean we're supposed to quit. We sometimes interpret it as a "No" from God because things don't seem to be working. But, that doesn't mean it's a "No." We tend to interpret that the reason there's resistance is because we must be doing it wrong - we must be out of God's will. But, the Bible says those who stood in God's will - those who stood their ground - those who stayed the course did so in the face of the greatest resistance. We should take resistance as a sign that we're on the right track - that we're over the target. Sometimes we actually *become* the target, so when we're sensing that, stay, keep believing, and keep showing up.

Stay ready. The Bible says we're to stay "instant in season." We need to stay ready *in* season and *out* of season. Here's the principle: the harvest often belongs to those who refuse to quit. Also, we're to give ourselves *fully*. That means "all-in." Like the Japanese Kamikaze pilots in World War II. They put their planes and lives on the line. They gave themselves *fully*. Imagine transferring into our faith life the spirit that says "*I'm not going to give up. I'm not going to quit. Jesus died for me. The least I can do is live for him fully and live this life out-loud and not quit. Not cave in. Not shrink back. Not just keep it to myself.*"

1 Corinthians 15:58

"Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord."

Christianity is not a spectator sport. We're all in this together and this is just the pep rally. This is to get us motivated to go out there and win somebody to Jesus. Jesus didn't save us merely to attend church. He saved us to join his mission family. This is a *mission* and the mission is to save the *world*.

People in Islam say, *"We're here to conquer the world."* And boy, they are. But, aren't we in the game, too? Are we just going to let them have it because we don't want to mix our religion with politics or we don't want to mix our religion with culture. Jesus didn't make those distinctions. He said, *"Give to Caesar what's Caesars's, but give to God what is God's."* Every day we wake up with a kingdom assignment - one more - just one more person to encourage. Just one more prayer to pray. Just one more invitation to extend. Just one more act of kindness.

There are things we can be doing when we're not actually on a mission trip or when we're not at church or in class, like walking up to people in the store and saying, *"Thank you for your service and God bless you."* Whether we're at HEB or eating out and we just say, *"How's your day going? Blessings! Have a great day!"* We can be doing things all day long. We can be on the lookout for something to do for somebody else, some way to serve them, and thereby advance the Spirit of Christ in everything we do. May we be infused with his love, and infused with service for one another. It's not a spectator sport.

Matthew 28:19

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I've commanded you. And surely I'm with you always."

Ephesians 2:10 NIV

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

When we wake up early in the morning, we should just start speaking God's word over our mind. *"I have the mind of Christ. Thank you, Jesus. I hold his thoughts, his purposes, his intents. Lord, thank you that You've created me. I am Your workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works for Your honor and your glory."* We're God's workmanship, created to be in Christ. We're created to be a Christian, to be with him, but we're also created to do good works. It's both-and, not either-or.

John 4:35

"Do you not say four months more and then the harvest? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields. They are ripe for harvest."

The problem is we don't *want* to open our eyes. We don't want to see the need, and yet, all around us, we're watching right now one of the greatest awakenings that has happened on the planet - more people being baptized, more people being saved right now at this season of history than in the entire history of the world. Why do we not see it? Because we don't want to see it - because it's just one more thing in our "feed" - because we're distracted. We're exhausted. We're tired. *"Don't say four months more. I tell you, open your eyes. Look at the fields. They are ripe for harvest."*

Each morning, we need to ask God for "just one more." Let us be going in and getting others and bringing them out one at a time. "Just one more." Our army medic Desmond Doss, he asked God for just one more - and it's truly a miracle that he lived - that he would not give up. His hands were bloodied by the time he was done. His hands had become bloody pulp as he was lowering men down on a rope with no gloves. Seventy-five men while under fire. Ask each morning, *"Father, who is my just-one-more today? Just one more neighbor, just one more family member, just one more co-worker, just one more prodigal, just one more opportunity."*

The gospel moves forward and the kingdom of God advances one person at a time. *Just one more.* It's so easy to get overwhelmed with big numbers and think, *"Wow, I haven't won thirty people to Jesus this year. Kind of behind."* But what if we just endeavor, where we live, where we work, and where we play, to say, *"You know what, Lord? Just one more. I want to win just one person to Jesus this year. I want to disciple one person as a mentor." Or maybe we do it together. We go through a study together. Just one more. That's our mission. That's our calling. We have callings that are specific, but at the end of the day, our calling is one thing, and that is to go and make disciples ...Just one more.*

Prayer

Father, our heart is "just one more" today. Give us grace to not grow weary doing good, but to press through, to not give up, to not cave in, to not quit - making a phone call or text to a friend. Just one more. Lord, give us a just-one-more spirit. It may not be as epic as running into a burning building and saving just one more, but it might be. It may be as simple as pausing a little longer to ask someone how they're really doing. Maybe that's our "just one more" person for the day. We're asking, Father, for a release of this Spirit that we will not settle for anything less than Your heart. And we will not settle for anything less than being aligned with You and Your mission on this planet. Lord, we pray that You would raise the level of our expectation. Raise the level of our faith. Raise our passion for the kingdom of God being advanced in our lifetime. One more person at a time. Just one more. Holy Spirit, pour that into our hearts and spirits right now, so that we will not pull up short - we will not quit - we will not cave in - we will not give up ...Just one more! In Jesus name. Amen.