

SEEING THINGS THOUGH

2 Timothy 4:10

Introduction: Everybody has at one time or other started something but never quite got it finished. There are people who never finish anything. They start to paint, to repair this or that, they have old cars/trucks in their yards, quilts not finished, puzzles still on a table, books not finished, etc. Some people quickly, readily volunteer to do this or that but somehow, for some unknown reason, never can be depended upon to be there, to fulfill their part of the job or duty. "I'm going to one of these days..." The Apostle Paul had to deal with a man who just couldn't finish what he started. Demas started out full of vigor, get up and go, anxious to learn and serve the Lord as Paul was doing. However, after a while, Demas quit, left Paul and went back home. Every one has the potential to be a "quitter." What does it take to stay with it and see it through?

I. EVERYONE SEEMS TO HAVE THE STARTING QUALITIES

1. Everyone has ideas, impulses, and at times are generous, loyal and full of eagerness to do things.
2. Upon getting married, the couple have great ideas, good intentions, wonderful plans to spend their lives together and pledge to do so in their wedding vows.
3. When children are born, parents have dreams of what that child, or children will grow up and become and plan out their lives for them.
4. Some get a new job and have the idea that "I am starting over, I am getting a new start" and things are going to be different, just wait and see.
5. Demas had fine starting qualities for Paul spoke about Demas often in his letters to others. Demas was off to a good start with Paul and Luke and all seemed to be working wonderfully.
6. Take an inventory of your own life. Have you not also had a wonderful, great, exciting start in doing something? College, marriage, children, a new job, etc.

II. NOT EVERYONE SEES THINGS THROUGH THAT THEY START

1. Life proves over and over that starting qualities are not exactly the same as the qualities that are required to see things through once started. It takes more than starting qualities.
2. Take a look at marriages. Over half end in divorce. What about children, having to grow up in a "single parent" home. Children don't turn out as parents planned or hoped they would. What about your own life? Are you right now where you dreamed and planned to be years ago? What about your service to the Lord? Ever tell Him you would do or not do so and so and end up doing the opposite?
3. Beautiful beginnings really mean nothing unless they are followed through to the end.
4. Demas started beautifully but he failed to stay with it. What happened to him?

5. The most tragic thing in life is not just sickness, suffering, being handicapped, no, the most tragic thing in life is a wasted life. A life lived in never completing anything started.
6. However, there is no need for any person to live a life as a failure.

III. SOMETHING TO HELP A PERSON STAY WITH HIS/HER COMMITMENT IS NEEDED

1. There must be a cause for a person to stay with his/her commitment and Jesus is that cause.
 - Paul had a cause. It was the Gospel and the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus had a cause. It was to bring Salvation to lost mankind.
 - Israel wanted to go back to Egypt after a while in the wilderness, they lost their cause.
 - The disciples left following Jesus upon His capture and crucifixion, they lost their cause.
 - The Ephesians left following Jesus, they had left their first love, they had no cause anymore.
 - Look at our own lives:
 - Falling away from worship attendance - not visiting - not tithing - not singing - not teaching in Sunday School - failing the Lord - why? No Cause!
 - Cannot see a commitment for the Lord through if Jesus isn't the real reason for the commitment.
2. There must be an inner strength to stay with one's commitment and see it through.
 - To do God's work, means to do it His way, in His strength, not ours.
 - God's strength is not like ours, for it never quits or grows weak and it is patient and eventually overcomes all difficulties and obstacles.
 - To do God's work is too much for our own strength, therefore His strength is needed and it is an inner strength which no human being is born with.
3. Faith is vital in staying with one's commitment and seeing it through.
 - One must believe that God does have a plan.
 - One must believe that God wants His plan done.
 - One must believe that God wants him/her (YOU) to do His work, His plan.
 - One must believe that God will supply all that is needed to complete the task, job.
 - One must believe that he/she will stand before God and give an account of his/her life.

CONCLUSION:

1. You may not be a "Judas," a traitor but how about a "Demas," a deserter, a quitter?
2. Have you ever quit something you committed yourself to in your Church?
3. You will not, cannot fail when your cause is the Lord Jesus and your strength is not your own, but the Lord's.
4. You cannot do the Lord's work on your own! Staying power comes when you do things for the Lord and do things His way. **YOU CAN DO IT!**