

# Embrace the Process

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## Key Scripture

Galatians 6:9 (ESV) And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

## Sermon in One Sentence

The Christian life is a marathon, not a sprint, and God calls us to faithful endurance through the process, trusting that His promised harvest will come in His perfect timing.

## Introduction

I wonder how many of you, like me, find yourselves captivated by "before and after" pictures. Whether it's a stunning home renovation, a dramatic weight loss transformation, or the incredible growth of a tiny seedling into a majestic tree, there's something deeply satisfying about seeing the finished product alongside its humble beginnings. We love the "after" because it represents achievement, beauty, and success. But what about the "during"? What about the messy, often frustrating, and sometimes painfully slow "process" that connects the "before" to the "after"? All too often, we fixate on the destination, neglecting or even resenting the journey, especially when that journey seems fraught with delays, difficulties, or discouragement.

This human inclination to rush to the outcome can be particularly problematic in our spiritual lives. We pray for patience but dread the trials that cultivate it. We desire spiritual maturity but shy away from the disciplined practices that nurture it. We long for God's blessings but grow weary in the "doing good" that often precedes them. This impatience, this weariness with the process, is a subtle but potent enemy of our faith, capable of stealing our joy, sapping our strength, and ultimately, causing us to abandon the good work God has called us to.

Today, we turn to a powerful passage in Galatians that confronts this very struggle. The Apostle Paul, writing to a church undergoing significant spiritual challenges, offers a timeless exhortation that speaks directly to our tendency to grow weary in well-doing. He calls us, unequivocally, to embrace the process, promising a divine harvest to those who persevere. Let us now open God's Word and allow His truth to recalibrate our perspective on the often-challenging, yet ultimately rewarding, journey of faith.

## Historical & Biblical Context

The Apostle Paul wrote his epistle to the churches in Galatia, likely a region in Asia Minor, addressing a severe theological crisis. False teachers, known as Judaizers, had infiltrated these fledgling Christian communities, asserting that Gentile converts must observe aspects of the Mosaic Law, such as circumcision, in addition to faith in Christ, to be truly saved or perfected. This directly contradicted Paul's gospel of salvation by grace through faith alone. Throughout the letter, Paul vehemently defends the true gospel,

emphasizing Christian freedom from the Law and the Spirit's role in sanctification. By the end of the letter, having firmly established the supremacy of grace, Paul pivots to practical exhortations for living out this freedom in love. Our key scripture, Galatians 6:9, sits within this context of encouraging believers to live by the Spirit, bear one another's burdens, and persist in good works, not out of legalistic obligation, but as an expression of their new life in Christ, anticipating a future reward that comes in "due season." It's a call to endurance in faith and practice, standing against the temptation to abandon the path of Spirit-led obedience.

## **Main Point I — Cultivate Steadfast Diligence**

**Scripture:** Galatians 6:9a ESV – "And let us not grow weary of doing good..."

Our first point calls us to cultivate steadfast diligence. Paul's opening phrase in this verse, "let us not grow weary of doing good," is a direct command and a profound recognition of human nature. The Greek word for "grow weary" (*ekkalakomen*) implies becoming faint, losing heart, or giving up due to exhaustion or discouragement. It's not a suggestion but an urgent warning against the spiritual fatigue that can settle into our souls when the path ahead seems long or the results are slow to materialize. "Doing good" encompasses not just acts of charity, but all forms of righteous living, ministry, and obedience to God's will, which are often demanding and costly.

This instruction implicitly acknowledges that Christian living *is* a process that *will* involve challenges and temptations to quit. It requires purposeful, consistent effort. We are called to be diligent, not just in explosive bursts of spiritual activity, but in the mundane, day-to-day faithfulness that often goes unnoticed by human eyes but is fully known to God. It means continuing to pray, even when prayers seem unanswered; continuing to serve, even when acts of service feel unappreciated; continuing to seek righteousness, even when sin's temptations loom large. This steadfast diligence is not born of legalistic duty but flows from a heart renewed by grace, trusting that our labor in the Lord is never in vain.

## **Main Point II — Trust God's Perfect Timing**

**Scripture:** Galatians 6:9b ESV – "...for in due season we will reap..."

The second imperative embedded in Paul's charge is to trust God's perfect timing. The promise, "for in due season we will reap," is a foundational truth for embracing the process. It's an agricultural metaphor that resonates deeply with timeless principles: a farmer sows seeds, but he cannot rush the harvest. The growth takes time, demanding patience, favorable conditions, and the mysterious work of nature. Similarly, in our spiritual lives, God orchestrates the "due season" – His chosen, optimal time for the fruit of our labor and faithfulness to manifest. This is deeply comforting, reminding us that we are not solely responsible for producing results; our role is to faithfully plant and water, but God gives the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6).

Often, our weariness stems from an impatience with God's timeline rather than our own efforts. We expect immediate gratification, instant transformations, or quick resolutions to our struggles. But God operates according to His sovereign plan and perfect wisdom, which often involves allowing a period of unseen growth, testing, and preparation before the "harvest" appears. To trust God's perfect timing means letting go of our own hurried schedules and embracing the truth that He knows precisely when our prayers will be answered, when our efforts will bear fruit, and when His purpose will be fully realized. This trust allows us

to persevere with hope, knowing that every act of obedience is a seed sown into the fertile ground of God's faithfulness.

## Main Point III — Practice Unwavering Perseverance

**Scripture:** Galatians 6:9c ESV – "...if we do not give up."

Our third and final point calls for unwavering perseverance. The condition attached to the promise of reaping is critical: "if we do not give up." This final phrase underscores the active role of the believer in the process. While God controls the timing and brings the harvest, He expects us to remain on the field, tending the crop until it's ready. The Greek phrase (*me eklyomenoi*) translates as "not relaxing" or "not fainting." It's a powerful call to spiritual tenacity, to resist the temptation to throw in the towel when the work is hard, the wait is long, or the results are not immediately apparent.

Unwavering perseverance isn't merely gritting our teeth and enduring; it's a Spirit-empowered resolve to continue in faith and obedience, even when circumstances scream otherwise. It's the quiet determination to run the race with endurance (Hebrews 12:1), to press on toward the goal (Philippians 3:14), and to stand firm in the Lord (1 Corinthians 16:13). This kind of perseverance recognizes that spiritual growth is incremental, not instantaneous, and that faithfulness over time builds spiritual muscle and character. It assures us that our labor is not in vain, for the God who commanded us not to grow weary also promises a reward to those who, by His grace, see the process through to completion.

## Illustration

Consider the story of the great composer Ludwig van Beethoven. By his late twenties, he began to lose his hearing, a devastating blow for a musician. By 1818, he was almost completely deaf. Yet, it was *during* this period of profound challenge and isolation, when the musical world he loved was becoming silent to him, that he composed some of his most monumental works. Pieces like the Ninth Symphony, with its awe-inspiring "Ode to Joy," were not created in a moment of easy inspiration, but through years of deaf struggle, painstaking revision, and sheer, indomitable perseverance. He couldn't hear the notes he was composing, but he held the music in his mind, trusting in his extraordinary gift and enduring the process, even when the immediate feedback of sound was denied to him. His "due season" of reaping glorious music came, not in spite of his suffering, but in a profound way, through it—because he did not give up.

## Practical Application

- 1. Identify areas of weariness:** Take time this week to prayerfully identify specific areas in your Christian life where you feel like "giving up" or have grown weary in "doing good." It might be in prayer, Bible study, an act of service, or a struggle with a persistent sin.
- 2. Re-commit to small acts of faithfulness:** Instead of focusing on overwhelming outcomes, choose one small, consistent act of obedience or spiritual discipline to practice daily this week, trusting that God honors faithfulness in the little things.

**3. Reflect on past harvests:** Spend time remembering instances where God brought a "harvest" in your life *after* a period of waiting or struggle. Journal these moments to strengthen your faith in His perfect timing.

**4. Find an accountability partner:** Share your struggles with weariness with a trusted believer and ask them to encourage you to persevere in your commitment to "doing good."

**5. Cultivate a posture of gratitude:** Regularly thank God for the *process* itself, for the lessons learned, the character formed, and the growth experienced, even before the full "harvest" is evident.

## Discussion Questions

1. What specific "good" works or spiritual disciplines do you find yourself most tempted to grow weary in, and why?

2. How does an overemphasis on immediate results (the "after") hinder your ability to embrace the "during" (the process) in your faith journey?

3. Can you share an experience where you persevered through a challenging spiritual process and eventually witnessed God's "harvest"?

4. In what ways can trusting God's "due season" alleviate some of the pressure and impatience we feel in our spiritual lives?

## Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we confess our human tendency to grow weary and our impatience with Your perfect timing. Forgive us for often focusing on the immediate outcome rather than faithfully walking in the process You ordain. Strengthen us by Your Spirit, we pray, to cultivate steadfast diligence in doing good, to trust implicitly in Your due season for every harvest, and to practice unwavering perseverance until Your purposes are fulfilled in us and through us. May our lives bring glory to Your name as we press on in faith. Amen.

## Benediction

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21, ESV adapted)