

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Disobeying God's Will

Lack of personal discipline...

Devotion

Psalms 119:11

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Direction

Philippians 3:13-14

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Duty

Luke 17:7-10

But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat?

And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink?

Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

Unrealistic expectations...

Difficulties will happen!

Sometimes life's problem will not always be an easy fix!

Elijah

1 Kings 18 - Fire falls and consumes the offering

1 Kings 19 - On the run from Jezebel.

Fighting spiritual battles alone...

Understand struggle

Ephesians 6:12

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Everybody needs

Someone to listen... choose carefully

Encouragement of others

The support / strength of the body of Christ

Failure to understand God's promises...

Walk by faith

2 Corinthians 5:7

(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

Examples

Abraham offers Isaac

David faces Goliath

Hebrew children in the fire

Daniel and the lions den

Don't

Demand of God to fulfill your desires

Assume that your conclusion is best

Lose heart and blame God or yourself

Commit and stay committed....

2 Timothy 4:1-5

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;
And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.
But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.*

Paul's difficulties...

2 Corinthians 11:23-28

....in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

Paul's commitment

2 Timothy 4:7

I have fought a good fight,

I have finished my course,

I have kept the faith:

Two keys to commitment to God's will

Persevere

Galatians 6:9

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Hebrews 12:1

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Matthew 25:21

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Focus on the eternal

Ephesians 1:18

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

Titus 2:12-13

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Revelation 21:4

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Christ won the battle on the cross at Gethsemane. He had to endure the shame and suffering of the cross, but His will was submitted to the will of the Father. Let His prayer be yours....

"Nevertheless not my will, but thine be done"