



Committing to Never Quitting

“My dear friends, stand firm and don’t be shaken. Always keep busy working for the Lord. You know that everything you do for him is worthwhile.”

1 Cor. 15:58 (CEV)

“‘If you’ll hold on to me for dear life,’ says God, ‘I’ll get you out of any trouble. I’ll give you the best of care if you’ll only get to know and trust me. Call me and I’ll answer, be at your side in bad times; I’ll rescue you, then throw you a party. I’ll give you a long life, give you a long drink of salvation!’”

Ps. 91:14 (*The Message*)

Born premature at 26 weeks, my son Daniel Jeremiah required 27 surgeries before the age of 1. The hospital messed up on protocols, and their error led to my son contracting meningitis, which subsequently led to cerebral palsy, hydrocephalus, and cortical blindness. Today, at the age of 7, he can’t walk or talk. My life with my son has led me into many financial, physical, and emotional hardships, some that I thought I would not survive and many that I am still dealing with today. Yet all this was allowed by our Sovereign God after I said yes to his will and to his way in August 1999. Since that time, I’ve finished my doctorate in education and planted a church in Pembroke Park, Fla., now in its third year. I intend to keep saying yes to God. I intend to keep going and never quit. But that doesn’t mean I’ve never considered quitting.

I am sure you have your own pit stories to tell. Life is tough! Can I get a witness? As women who have been called out to do greater works “for such a time as this,” you’ve experienced extreme hardship, you’ve questioned your call, you’ve

wondered if the call was worth the cost. I know. I’ve been there many more times than I care to admit. But the lesson for us is that we have to (a) trust God in the middle of our mess, (b) hold on to him for dear life, and (c) keep doing what he has called us to do.

Sure it’s hard, and, yes, it’s painful at times. But, sister, you have to realize that the devil is not merely seeking to delay your dream from coming to fruition—he is seeking to destroy it! Each human being has a unique quality that contributes something to the world that no one else can. But if you quit now, you will rob the world of what only you can contribute. Everything we experience and are allowed to go through has a purpose and is backed up by the Romans 8:28



promise. Take the time you need to grieve, cry, or shout as is necessary and God-ordained for an emotionally healthy spirit, but then get up, dust yourself off, and dare mighty things for our risen Lord and Savior. That dream you have is a God-given dream; don’t you dare let the devil stop you from going forward as a highly favored and blessed woman of God to become a blessing to others. If you do what you are called to do, even when the devil has launched a massive assault against you, God promises to rescue you.

Whatever you may be going through right now, I hope you commit never to quit. Remember these words:

I am part of the fellowship of the

unashamed. I have the Holy Spirit power. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made—I am a disciple of His. I won’t look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future is secure. I’m finished and done with low living, sight walking, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tame visions, worldly talking, cheap giving, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don’t have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean in His presence, walk by patience, am uplifted by prayer, and I labor with power.

My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions are few, my guide is reliable, my mission is clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, diluted, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in a maze of mediocrity. I won’t give up, shut up, let up, or slow down. (Robert Moorehead, *Words Aptly Spoken*)

Remember, God’s getting ready to throw you a party! ■

As founder of the Center for Emerging Female Leadership (cefl.org), Pastor Liz Rios is an encourager, equipper, and educator to women everywhere she goes. As a nationally published writer, she uses words to inform and inspire others towards their destiny. Her role as co-pastor (along with her husband) of Wounded Healer Fellowship (woundedhealerfellowship.com) gives her the opportunity to see God show up and show off. Visit her blog at latinaliz.typepad.com.