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**God of this City;
Lord of this Nation
Continued**

The valid response when things get tough is to continue (Acts 2:42; 18:11; Philippians 3:14). “Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant. If they watch every cloud, they never harvest. Just as you cannot understand the path of the wind or the mystery of a tiny baby growing in its mother’s womb, so you cannot understand the activity of God, who does all things. Plant your seed in the morning and keep busy all afternoon, for you don’t know if profit will come from one activity or another—or maybe both” (Ecclesiastes 11:4-6, NLT). Keep moving on! Tough times come, but we are tougher. We can make it. Jesus is with us; right at our side (2 Timothy 4:17). With Him, we are “more than conquerors” (Romans 8:37). “Overwhelming victory is ours” (Romans 8:37, NLT). Nothing stops us! The Book of Acts ends with Paul in the huge city of Rome. In human eyes he was in trouble, in prison, and bound for certain death. Through spiritual spectacle, he was “preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him” (Acts 28:31). The history book outlining the early blaze of fires of truth, as it spread throughout the known world, ends with the final word

being “unstoppable.” The Gospel was (and is) still being preached. The original Greek means that the Gospel was unhindered, without hindrance, and is a term often found in legal documents. It implies restraining, withstanding, and withholding. You get the picture? We have a restraining order against the devil. We can go into the enemy’s camp and take back what belongs to us. We can possess the land. (I would give you a scriptural reference for that, but there are too many to mention). It was the Lord’s constant command and battle cry, “Possess the land! Possess the land!” Why should we possess it? Because the Lord has given it to us! A friend adds, “Many are not willing to fight. Some think possession is a promise without problems. Of course this is not so, possession comes through persevering with purpose. Because of His promise, His presence precedes His people.” God gives the promise of possession and promises to be with us. The question is, “Why are you taking so long to possess the land?”

Teach and preach the Word of God (2 Timothy 4:2). It will accomplish its purpose (Isaiah 55:11). Jesus commanded. “Teach all nations” (Matthew 28:19). Reach a city; reach a nation. What better place is there to start?

Stay as long as God tells you to stay. Leave only when He tells you to leave. He will be there throughout the journey. Until then,

touch lives, transmit truth, and see God transform your city and nation.

The ancient voyager, Christopher Columbus, had an unquenchable passion to explore. He encountered unfathomable difficulties. There was mutiny on board his ship. He wrote, "We sailed westward today!" He didn't know what to do. "But, we sailed westward today." Food was gone, "We sailed westward today." No matter the circumstance, "Sail on! Sail on!" Paul was another man undaunted by the situations of life and ministry. He said, "This one thing I do" (Philippians 3:13) and moved forward with a passion to fulfill his God-given vision. It is always too soon to quit. Winston Churchill in a famous speech said, "Never give in. Never give in. Never, never, never, never—in nothing, great or small, large or petty—never give in, except to convictions of honor and good sense. Never yield to force. Never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy." Never give up! It is always too soon to quit!

Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament mentions, "As you read the Book of Acts, you see how God's "spiritual army" conquered one city after another by faith. Even the mighty city of Rome fell before the power of the Gospel! Today, God's people again need to learn how to capture cities."

Warren W. Wiersbe in *With the Word Bible Commentary* wrote this concerning Paul, "He was not one to run away from either the battlefield or the harvestfield." Can the same be said about you?

Often the situation looks bleak. "The wicked shall be turned into hell, And all the nations that forget God" (Psalms 9:17,

NKJV). But judgment and punishment rendezvous with mercy and compassion (Romans 5:20). Truth and mercy meet in the streets of our cities. This happens when, "repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:47). It is the divine plan that "All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name" (Psalms 86:9). But first, the Gospel must be proclaimed as a witness to all nations (Matthew 24:14); and published among all nations (Mark 13:10). Although every soul counts and is eternally valuable in God's sight, the Gospel is not to be confined to a few obscure villages, hidden from massive cities. "The Message has to be preached all across the world" (Mark 13:10, MSG). People will flock to the "house of prayer for all nations" (Mark 11:17). "Then all the nations will be arranged before him and he will sort the people out" (Matthew 25:32, MSG). When all the nations are gathered, and He begins to sort the people out, my heart's desire and ceaseless prayer is, "Let there be 'much people' from my city. God, let there be multiplied thousands from my nations. Yes, Lord, and multiplied millions from my continent and world. I enduringly pledge to that end. "After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb" (Revelation 7:9, NLT).

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