

From your friends at:

THE FELLOWSHIP OF JOY

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DON'T GIVE UP... TODAY

At this very moment, out of all the people receiving this paper, someone is considering quitting.

It may not necessarily be their job that they are tempted to walk out on, or their marriage, or anything that anyone will immediately notice. It is something far more important ... their dreams.

Someone is about to give up on their dreams and it will show gradually and in very subtle ways.

They are discouraged and hopeless and the rewards just are not coming from their efforts.

I have one word for you, dear friend, and it is not necessarily brilliant. There will be tomorrow. You will have countless opportunities to quit. Quitting will always be an option for you unless and until you come to the place of deciding that it is not. Here is the word: WAIT.

I am just saying, wait. Don't quit today. Give it another day and get back with me. You have no idea what inspiration, burst of energy, word of encouragement, seed of an idea, or Word from God is right around the corner for you.

You just don't know. You still have some strength; use it to get through the day. You still have some faith; apply it. You still have time; you don't have to quit today.

Down time is OK. In fact, it is sometimes necessary. Down time is waiting time - time to "not quit."

"We can do anything we want if we stick to it long enough." - Helen Keller

There is always tomorrow to throw away your hopes, dreams, ideas, and the investments you have already made. You don't have to quit today.

Wait.

I know you can do that. While you are waiting to regain your belief in yourself, use a little of mine because I believe in you.

PATH LIGHT

Thy word is the light... to my path.
Psalm 119:105

Worship: Sunday at 11:15 am

THIS IS THE SEASON SHOUTS OUT, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE!
"START BY DOING WHAT'S NECESSARY, THEN DO WHAT'S POSSIBLE, AND SUDDENLY YOU ARE DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE." -- Saint Francis of Assisi



THE MIRACLE OF BELIEVING

(John 20:8-9) Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed. For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.

One unnamed disciple came first to the tomb, but he did not enter at first. Whatever held him back, it was Simon Peter who ventured first into the dark place and emerged again with evidence that the Master was no longer there.

The unnamed disciple paused. Was it for fear or for disbelief? Was he frozen with shock or just unsure of what to do?

We have all been there. Our faith is not strong. We are unsure of ourselves and unsure of God. We don't know what to do.

We do not know what to do with the resurrection or what to believe about it. It is scandalous. It is ridiculous in mere human terms. It is unbelievable and inconceivable. This disciple had been present when Jesus had predicted it, but he still had no understanding of it.

They were just words to him. (Maybe religion itself is just words to you.)

But then he walked in. He stared into the

mouth of death and entered the tomb. It was not an easy thing for him to do, but he did it and I am sure, he never regretted that moment, because it was in that moment that another miracle took place.

What happened to him was the miracle of believing. He saw and believed. He believed before he understood. Understanding would take some time. Believing took one moment.

It was a moment of encounter, a moment of realization, a moment of remembering, and a moment of seeing the emptiness of the tomb with his very own eyes. He had not yet seen Jesus, but he had seen enough. The miracle of belief was a spiritual transformation of his heart. It would prepare him to understand and receive all else that God would give – perhaps even to write the book of John, for many believe that this account is autobiographical.

"... These are written that ye may believe ..." he would later conclude.

Step into the tomb for just a fleeting moment. Gaze into the mouth of death and you will see. It is empty. It is devoid of power. The Lord is risen! Believe!

"Commit yourself to a dream. Nobody who tries to do something great but fails is a total failure. Why? Because he can always rest assured that he succeeded in life's most important battle; he defeated his fear of trying." - Dr. Robert Schuller



Who can lift today today
From dregs or rags or rubble?
"Who will lift me?" replies the bit of me within me
Whose focus, inverted and cross eyed
Causes me to
Stumble over unexpected opportunities.
"Refocus!" Shouts the me within me that can see,
Refocus and move forward and
Ask again the first question.
Who can I lift today and in the lifting
Lift myself.
Who can I encourage?
Who can I bless?
Who can I walk alongside and with that one.
Share a burden?
Who can I love?
To whom can I give myself?
Who will be my brother or sister,
Or lifelong friend,
Whom I have never met?
Who will you bring along my path today, Oh Lord,
By divine appointment to change my life
As I give myself away?
I stand before you on tiptoe, Oh Lord,
With childlike anticipation and wonder,
Waiting for the moment and the person
That you will bring along my way
To lift today.

A prayer by Tom Sims

"Whatever you can do or dream, you can begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it. Begin now!" - Goethe



"Humanity cannot forget its dreamers. It cannot let their ideas fade and die. It lives in them. It knows them as the realities which it shall one day see and know. Composers, sculptors, painters, poets, prophets and sages these are the makers of tomorrow. These are the architects of heaven." - John Donne

STEPS TO CHRIST

God loves you and wants you to live forever in His presence, experiencing His love and living under His kingship. However, He has made you free and offers you the choice of receiving or rejecting Him. He does not wish to coerce your love or force you to receive His. Rather, He offers it to you as a free gift. Sin has separated us from God. Sin is simply choosing our will over God's will and rejecting His rule in our lives (not "rules" like a list of rules, but "rule" like a sovereign rules his kingdom). All of our bad choices are rooted in our problem of sin—a problem that is common to all people. Jesus died to free you from your sin and paid the price for your forgiveness. That is why Romans 6:23 says,

"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord."

There are three choices in that verse:

- The first is to choose between wages and grace (gift). We must swallow our pride and admit that we need what only God can give. We cannot earn or deserve His grace.
- The second is to choose between sin and the Lordship of Christ, directing our lives and ruling our hearts.
- The third is the choice between life and death which follows the other two. Eternal life is in Christ. Apart from Him is eternal death and separation from God.

Here is what you must do: **A—B—C**

A - Admit to God that you are a sinner and need Christ. "Lord I have sinned and I need You."

B - Believe—Put your faith in Jesus. "Lord, I believe in You, that you died and rose for me."

C - Confess Jesus as Lord of your life. "Lord Jesus, I know that I have sinned and I am in need of Your grace, forgiveness, and help. I believe that You died on the cross and rose again, I confess You as Lord. I receive You as my Savior. Come into my life and save me. Thank You for the free gift of salvation"

For More Information or Spiritual Help: WWW.FindItHere.com

Or call 1-888-537-8720