



# Blackfoot

## Church of Christ

Published by Blackfoot Church of Christ  
Blackfoot, ID

Volume 7 Number 14

April 7, 2019

### "Do Not Lose Heart"

Jim Mickells | Lewisburg, Tennessee, USA

We find the Greek word “ekkakeō” used six times in the Bible (Luke 18:1; 2 Corinthians 4:1,16; Galatians 6:9; Ephesians 3:13; 2 Thessalonians 3:13). Four times it is translated do not “lose heart” and twice we are told not to “grow weary” in the New King James Version. This word is defined as “To turn out to be a coward, to lose one’s courage. In the NT, generally, to be fainthearted, to faint or despond in view of trial, difficulty. Intrans. (2 Cor. 4:1, 16; Eph. 3:13). In the sense of to be remiss or slothful in duty (Luke 18:1; Gal. 6:9; 2 Thess. 3:13)” (Complete Word Study Dictionary – New Testament).

As we read these verses there are some things pointed out to us that can cause one to “lose heart.” Care must be taken so our faith in the Lord is not destroyed nor do we become unfaithful in serving Him. There are several things mentioned in the text around these passages which are preventive, helping us to avoid growing weary.

Paul said, “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day” (2 Corinthians 4:16). All the hardships the apostle had faced along with his age were now taking its toll on his body. As we grow older, the days are more difficult, tasks which were once easy to do now become such a chore. The strength and vigor that once filled our bodies have now disappeared and have been replaced with

aches and pains. Our mental alertness has grown dull and our ability to remember is slowly fading away. It would be easy for one to lose heart while dealing with such problems.

When writing to those at Ephesus, this apostle said, "Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory" (Ephesians 3:13). One's emotions can certainly be stirred by seeing the sufferings of others, especially when it is one they love and care for very deeply. This man was being afflicted for them. Can you name a family that at some point in their lives have not had to deal with some tragedy? Such can be a challenge to one's loyalty to God.

We are warned, "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart" (Galatians 6:9). Why would one grow weary while doing good? Is it because he does not reap immediately what he had sown? Maybe it is because he thinks his harvest is not nearly what it should be in comparison to the effort put forth. The thoughts of some are on the physical and not the spiritual rewards of such a life. Whatever the reason the apostle understood the possibility of losing heart.

How can I prevent this from happening to me? One thing I can do is to focus on heaven. Paul knew the outward man was perishing, yet notice what he did, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:17-18). Recently we had a singing and one of the older members whose health is failing and mind slowly diminishing, requested that we sing "No Tears In Heaven." Never lose sight of where the faithful are going and the reward awaiting us, eternal life (Galatians 6:8).

Secondly, what Paul did in mentioning the tribulations he was dealing with to those at Ephesus, he told them it was for their sakes (Ephesians 3:13). He wasn't giving up, and he encouraged them not to lose heart as well. In the next chapter he said, "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers" (Ephesians 4:29). Words of encouragement from others can make a difference in the lives of Christians. Pay close attention to your fellow-servants. When you see someone struggling, offer words of encouragement and edification, gently reminding them of your love for them and the blessings promised by the Father to those who remain faithful.

Thirdly, we need to pray. Luke says, "Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart" (Luke 18:1). This earthly story with a heavenly meaning is stated with its explanation in verses 2-8. We refer to it as the Parable of The Unjust Judge. The Lord can provide the needed help and strength when troubling times are upon us. Peter said, "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:6-7). May the Lord our God help us, so we never give up; never lose heart; never become weary while serving Him.

## Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Porters and Empey's are travelling this week
- Tammy Woodward is being treated for cancerous brain tumors. Treatments have not been effective.
- Several of our number are in the recovery phase of surgeries
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Bible class tonight 6:00pm at Chad and Kass' on evangelism
- Joe Price will be bringing lessons for us May 19-24
- Business meeting scheduled for next Sunday

**For prayer requests, call or text**

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

## Assignments

<p><b><u>Today</u></b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Ross Ward <b>Song Leader</b> – Ben Palmer <b>Lord's Table</b> – Larry Thompson <b>Sermon</b> – Ross Ward</p>	<p><b><u>Wednesday</u></b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Chad Mitchell <b>Song Leader</b> – Ben Palmer <b>Invitation</b> – Ross Ward</p>
<p><b><u>Next Sunday</u></b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Ross Ward <b>Song Leader</b> – Tom Mitchell <b>Lord's Table</b> – Chad Mitchell <b>Sermon</b> – Ross Ward</p>	<p><b><u>Next Wednesday</u></b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Chad Mitchell <b>Song Leader</b> – Tom Mitchell <b>Invitation</b> – Ross Ward</p>

Blackfoot Church of Christ  
370 North Shilling Ave.  
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

### **Meeting Times:**

Sunday Class 10:00AM  
Sunday Worship 11:00AM  
Wednesday Class 7:30PM



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