

Pressing Towards the Goal



Without Dying Along the Way

Donna Hayden

Pressing Towards the Goal Trilogy Series
Book One

Copyright © 2021 Donna Hayden.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be used or reproduced by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping or by any information storage retrieval system without the written permission from the copyright owner.

Scripture taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

ISBN: 978-1-955011-06-8 (sc)

ISBN: 978-1-955011-26-6 (hc)

ISBN: 978-1-955011-22-8 (e)

ISBN: 978-1-955011-24-2 (v)

Library of Congress Control Number: 2021943696



Inquiries should be sent to:

Email: donna@excellentglory.org

Website: www.excellentglory.org

This book is dedicated to the Ministry Team of Spiritual Life Crusades, Inc. P.O. Box 919, Fairfield, Connecticut, 06824-0919 U.S.A. www.pastordavidpaul.org. Your commitment to integrity and selfless service for the sake of the gospel is an encouragement to all. It is bearing fruit that will never fade away.

Pressing Towards the Goal

Should be the desire of every child of God

CONTENTS

Preface

Acknowledgements

Introduction

1. Abel
2. Enoch
3. Noah
4. Abraham
5. Sarah
6. Isaac
7. Jacob
8. Joseph
9. The Parents of Moses
10. Moses
11. The People of the Exodus
12. Joshua
13. Israel at the Walls of Jericho
14. Rahab
15. Gideon
16. Barak
17. Samson
18. Jephthae
19. David
20. Samuel
21. The Prophets

Conclusion

Appendix

PREFACE

The ministry contained in this book was born out of an odyssey, as the Lord took me home to Himself. His presence and appearances along the journey made the bitter experience sweet and the dark path bright. I found rest during the weary days and sleepless nights, and the scars from the pain have become glorious.

In one of the Lord's appearances, I found myself in the cemetery. He thrust a sword through my heart. This caused real pain, but the pain was not as severe as I thought. I remembered taking a last breath, and after what seemed like a short time, I rose from the grave. Everything around me looked beautiful. The Lord appeared more glorious than before. He had not changed, but I had.

They were other of God's people in the cemetery. Some were clinging to their lives tenaciously, refusing to die. This made their pain much more severe. They could not be buried at that time because they were wandering about, not fully dead. Some died more quickly than others and were buried just as quickly.

As they rose from the grave, glory radiated from their temples. These glorious lights lit up the cemetery. We left the cemetery as bright lights, and with new lives. The Lord gave each of us our individual assignments.

I had encounters with many Bible saints along the way. This does not mean that I met with actual people. Rather, these are spiritual experiences. There are biblical examples of such experiences, such as when John encountered an angel. When John wanted to worship him, the angel -----

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I acknowledge the assistance and contributions of the following with sincere gratitude:

- Pastor David Paul, who has birthed me into this ministry of writing;
- All those who prayed for us and were a source of support and encouragement.

Most important, I express my gratitude to my Lord for His grace and love during this work and for the Holy Spirit's leading into the amenities of God.

INTRODUCTION

Faith is a spiritual principle that God has given to us to facilitate His divine purpose in the outworking of His plan and program for this age. It gives life to things that are unseen as we act upon what we believe based on Scripture.

God loves us, and wants to conform us into the image of His Son in making us a people full of light. He wants to have a dwelling place among us by inhabiting our friendship in such a way and with such a rich level of intimacy that His manifest presence would light up the universe.

God's purpose or end has a crisis and a process, and the means to the purpose is always a difficult road. One cannot experience God's purpose through Bible study, doctrines, theory, or techniques, but only through practical situations. When practical situations or trials come our way, only the revelation knowledge of God can help and save us.

We are not to revel in our day of trouble, but submit to the Lordship of Christ. As we do that, He will lead us through and out of adversity.

There was faith before Christ came, as witnessed by the sacrifice for sinners (Leviticus 5:17-18). The difference between past and present faith is Christ. He now sits on the throne of grace, not imputing unto the world their trespasses (2 Corinthians 5:19). In the past God dwelt with His people while in the present He dwells in the hearts of His people. -----

CHAPTER 1



Abel

The Blood Still Speaks

Abel, your brother, Cain, had no inner peace—
Because he allowed himself to be deceived.
He sincerely thought the works of his hands,
Would compensate for the issues of his heart.
While you offered to the Lord a blood offering,
Cain offered to Him a bloodless one, thus erring.
The Lord accepted the offering you produced,
But rejected Cain's offering and his excused.

“My best is not good enough”—Cain cried in rage—
“And all my labor for the Lord has been in vain.”
But the Lord wanted him to walk in love and truth,
So He offered him a solution to his heart's delusion.
“If you submit to my plan instead of your plan,
Then I will accept your offering,” God said to Cain.
But he did not repent of the nature that breeds sin,
And instead allowed anger and pride to fester within.

While you entered in through the door of repentance,
Your brother walked out through the door of offense.

CHAPTER 2



Enoch

We Are Not of This World

Enoch, you walked with God in such an intimate way,
Because you were an extraterrestrial being in the day.¹
God took you to His hiding place—where you resided,
And that was because of the good faith you applied.
When God wanted to commune *or reason* with you,
Amid the darkness of earth's doom and gloom,
You did not hide, make excuses, or run away in fear,
But accepted His judgments—knowing that He cared.

Ever since man fell, the evil one is now prince of the air,²
And when evil reigns, death keeps men captive in its lair.
But when godliness reigns, lives have power to elevate,
So death had no more power to keep you in the grave.
There is a great gulf fixed between heaven and earth,
And only the Lord could take you to the heavenly sphere.
He translated you to that secret place of the Most High,
Which is hidden from the “eyes of all living, and the dead.”

Your physical posture was not a threat to the enemy;³
Instead it was your spiritual life, God working through you.

¹ *Terrestrial*—Relating to the earth; earthly. *Extraterrestrial*-----

CHAPTER 12



Joshua

We Will Possess the Land

As one born in slavery under the rule of the Egyptians,
You, Joshua, went through the Red Sea with the people.
After arriving to the shores, the people were attacked,
And you defeated the Amalekites when you struck back.
You were skillful, dependable, trustworthy, and brilliant,
While you served in the tabernacle as Moses' assistant.
You waited for Moses when he went up Mount Sinai,
And did not get involved with the sin of the Golden Calf.

You *and Caleb* were among the twelve spies Moses sent out,
To reconnoiter the Promised Land the fathers talked about.
After searching the land for forty days, everyone returned,
And told Moses and all the people what you had learned.
Based on the report you all brought back from the mission,
It would be difficult to take the land without a vision.¹
But you both did not just see the giants strutting around—
You took a trip in the spirit and saw them coming down!

You both remembered how from slavery God set you free,
And in the night season He led you across the Red Sea.

¹ *Vision*—to see things the way God them.

CHAPTER 13



Israel at the Walls of Jericho

An Army Unto God

With its city besiege, and the imminence of an attack,
Jericho barred its gates and prepared to fight back.
Its citizens heard what the Lord did at the Red Sea,
And were concerned about what their end would be.
They gathered food for storage to counter the siege,¹
And guards were posted due to the impending breach.
But though Jericho was fortified with walls so tall,
You, Israel, took up the shield of faith for the walls to fall.

The enemy shot the dart of *unbelief* to cause doubt:
As you kept circling the city's walls around and about;
He hoped the “endless cycle” would cause you to deter;
Because it seemed that you were just beating the air.
But by *faith* you continued circling for the promises ahead,
Though the arm of flesh wanted you to give up instead.
Since you acted on God's word since the circling began,
The walls fell when Jehovah-Nissi made bare His arm!²

Because *victory* was delayed, no quick intervention,
The enemy shot the dart of *defeat* to get your attention.

¹ Joshua 3:15b. The harvest had just taken place.

CHAPTER 17



Samson

Running the Race

In the time in which you, Samson, were a judge in the land,
God called you to deliver Israel from the Philistines' hand.
You were under a sacred vow, since you were a non-Levite,
To help you to handle the job with God's power and might.
But you got entangled in sin, which led to your demise.
And by faith you called on God and He answered your cry;
The strength that you lost through sin God gave back,
And in your death defeated the enemy when you attacked.

As with the great cloud of witnesses that cheers us on,
In the daily running of our race for the crowns to be won—
We keep on running the race to the end of our days,
And finish the course we started on as we keep the faith.
The imperishable crown, which will never fade or decay,
Awaits us at the finish line and will be given on that day.
We fight the good fight against the lust of the flesh and eyes
And the pride of life as we press onto the goal for the prize.

The flesh fuels the worldly gain of sin, with its pleasures,
And the quest for happiness, even those of godly treasures.¹

¹ God will give the ministry and position when we -----

CHAPTER 21



The Prophets

The Eternal Purpose of God

As prophets, it took courage for you to accept God's call,
And to confront the people with sin and their need for God.
You warned of God's judgment if they did not turn to Him,
And blessings for obedience when God is lifted up within.
You pointed the people to Jesus, the coming Messiah,
Who desired to build them up to that City, Mount Zion.
You made great personal sacrifices in answering the call,
And were rewarded with talking face to face with God.

You demonstrated God's power and proved to the world,
That He is the only true God who is worthy to be adored.
As with the great cloud of witnesses looking on with hope,
Who encourage us to trust God as we go into the unknown,
We must contend to be in God's eternal purpose—
To be a people of light that will shine in this hour.
To that end the Father unceasingly works through grace,
To conform us into Christ's image as we daily run the race.

Consider what is foremost in our horizon—can we truly say
That God's purpose is ours also, even in times of adversity?

CONCLUSION

The foundation of everything God has called us to be and do is in Christ. Therefore, we should devote our lives more to loving and worshipping Him than fighting the enemy. Abiding in Him is the enabling factor that gives us the spiritual strength and fortitude to live the overcomer life.

The righteousness of God is the driving force behind our faith. It causes us to triumph in Jesus' name—in the face of Satan and the whole world. God gives righteousness to many, from the hill dwellers to the city dwellers, from the wealthy to the poor, from the prostitutes to the pimps to the morally upright, and to the benchwarmers in church. We become powerhouses of faith.

To love the Lord comes from an inner state of heart, that whatever we do, however we live our lives, it is pleasing to Him. He allows suffering for His sake in this spiritual warfare. Righteous suffering disarms Satan. In the very place in which we were wounded we will receive authority to minister to others. It is also a sign of destruction for the enemy in that area.

God does not want us to fail, but rather to experience the victory He has ordained from eternity past. Jesus has already prayed for us (John 17), and this should motivate us to live a life that will bring Him honor and glory.

Trials and testing are not to hurt us, and we should never allow them to take us out. God is leading and guiding us; the host of heaven is backing us, and the great cloud of witnesses is cheering us on as we run the race -----

APPENDIX

The great cloud of witnesses has become the harbingers of our faith. Their lives' story is to back us up, and to cheer us on with hope and anticipation, that we will make Christ the essence of our faith. He is the great lesson of our spiritual education.

Abel **“The Blood Still Speaks”**

We are not immune to trouble. Things happen, whether unintentionally or on purpose. Having a forgiving spirit towards others and ourselves prevents bitterness, anger, and self-condemnation from taking root in our hearts. Anger is a part of human emotion. It is normal to get angry when someone does wrong to us. It is also important how we handle our anger.

We see what Cain did to his brother, Abel, and it was wrong. And as much as we want God to deal with those who have done us wrong and help us through challenging times, we must allow Him to deal with areas of our hearts that need our attention.

It is not only “Lord, I need a miracle in this or that area, or I need vindication in this or that area,” but more importantly, it is: “Search me, O God, so that I may know my sins to repent.”

We allow God to take away the impurities, what is not of Him or like Him. The heart bleeds and hurts when the knife of God's word cuts away those fleshly areas of our hearts. We are thus making a blood sacrifice unto the Lord.

The shedding of blood from a contrite heart speaks God's language, hence the heading: "The Blood Still Speaks."