**Weekly Devotional 3-18-2012 The Grace to Keep Going**

**1** What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? **2** By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? **3** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4** We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.**6** We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. **7** For one who has died has been set free from sin. **8** Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. Romans 6:1-8

I can’t take it.” “I give up.” “I quit.” These are powerful words which, when we act on them, deeply impact others’ lives as well as our own. Let’s look at three key reasons which cause us to express these sentiments.

1. Satan and his fallen angels’ influence is one reason that we walk away from the Lord’s plan. Through their involvement in our goings-on, we can be tempted to stop waiting on God for solutions and instead seek a way out *now*. Running ahead of God is the same as declaring that His promises do not hold true. This is something the Devil wants. Discouragement is another of his tactics — he tries to redirect our focus away from hope in Jesus Christ and onto our negative emotions. His aim is to make us feel helpless and hopeless. His strategy also includes getting believers to copy the methods of the unbelieving world and ignore any future consequences of quitting.
2. A second reason we stop following God’s plan is the influence of our culture. Ungodly people are always ready to give believers advice. We need divine wisdom to set ourselves apart from their thinking and yet stay close enough to be able to share God’s viewpoint and message of hope with them.

1. Our own “natural self” — also known as “the flesh” — is the third reason we might want to bypass God’s way. Sacrifice isn’t comfortable; our natural tendency is to do what feels good and benefits us or those we love.

God declares that His grace is sufficient to keep us going through every situation. That means we need never give up. How does this apply to your life today? I hope this devotional will help you realize you need never give up. It is only when we give up that the light of the Son seems to no longer shine for us. This is not because Christ is not with us, but because when we give up we shut that Light out.

My prayer for you: LORD have grace and mercy on your hurting child. Send Your Comforter to be with them, to guide them even in the darkest of moments. Give this person discernment to see that nothing in this world is larger than You. Help them to know that nothing is impossible with You at their side. Amen.