\*DON'T GIVE UP ON GOD!\*

The word of God says:

 \*"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing".\*

James 1:2-4.

One of the most astonishing encounters in the bible is that of the woman of Canaan who persistently cried to Jesus for the sake of her daughter, who was vexed with the devil.

 \*Matthew 15:22-28.\*

This woman exhibited great desperation, for a miracle from Jesus for her demon possessed daughter, despite the odds against her.

The disciples said to Jesus:

\*"Send her away; for she cries after us".\*

Matthew 15:23

However, the woman was adamant; she refused to be subdued by the disciples.

She was bold and courageous about her goal.

She exchibited great determination in getting the attention of our Lord Jesus for her daughter.

\*Giving up on your goals, dreams and promises of God is not an option at all.\*

Apostle Paul wrote:

 \*"I press on towards the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus"\*

Phil 3:14.

When the children of Isreal were confronted with the red sea in front of them, with Pharaoh and the host of Egypt behind them; naturally they were left with no other option than to give up.

However, God spoke to Moses:

\*"Why do you cry to me?,tell the people of Isreal to go forward".\*

Exodus 14:15.

Every journey in life has its destination, hence stopping half way is like embarking on a futile exercise.

Albert Einstein: the German physicist said:

 \*"Life is like a bicycle,to keep your balance, you must keep moving".\*

The bible says:

 \*"No trial has overtaken you that is not faced by others and God is faithful, He will not let you be tried beyond what you are able to bear, but with the trial He will also provide a way out so that, you will be able to endure it".\*

1 Cor 10:13.

 \*Tenacity\* is a word that should be in everyone's dictionary; for life itself is not a bed of roses. It is always full of ups and downs, love and hate, twists and turns: all of which are inevitable.

Martin Luther King Jr said:

 \*"If you can't fly, then run, if you can't run, then walk, if you can't walk, then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward".\*

The journey of life is like a roller coaster for many people.

Some people that we all admire both in the work of God and the secular world today have stories to tell on what it took them to get to where they are now.

\*Every obstacle, failure,trials and opposition are like potholes on the journey of life; they only hinder the smoothness of the trip they do not stop the journey outrightly.\*

Many of us lack \*endurance and patience\*: which is one of the fruit of the Spirit and a necessity for us to have.

Have you ever taken your children on a journey of which you have told them will take about ten hours to get to the destination?

Then, barely two hours into the journey, they are already asking :

" \*Are we there now?"\* .

It is simply lack of patience: \*they want it now\* and that trait is not peculiar to children; adults have it too.

 \*Steadfastness\* in the word of God is necessary to garner the strength to persevere in the face of trials and challenges.

Never give up on a dream just because it has taken years for it to come to pass.

 \*"Faithful is He that calls you; who also will bring it to pass".\*

1 Thess 5:24.

People must have told you stuffs like \*:"Are you out of your head", "You don't know what you are doing" you are not qualified for it", "we shall see how this will play out";\*

Do not be discouraged by their words; stay focused on God and His promises for your life.

Nothing that last come cheaply or gotten on a platter of gold.

After the woman of Canaan was able to overcome the obstacle placed on her by the disciples and she heard Jesus said to the disciples:

 \*"I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Isreal".\*

Matthew 15:24.

At that point she must have \*heaved a sigh of relief.\* that at long last Jesus answered her.

However, she was confronted with a bigger test in our Lord Jesus:

Jesus said to her:

 \*"It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs"\*

Matthew 15:26

What an insult and embarrassment that is enough to make anyone to give up, yet the woman absolved the insult and replied Jesus:

 \*"That's true Lord; but even the dogs are allowed to eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table".\*

Matthew 15:27.

Jesus Christ was stunned by her \*resolve\*:

 \*"Woman you have great faith, your request is granted and her daughter was healed at that moment".\*

Matthew 25:28

 \*Lesson:\* God sometimes test our \*faith\* and \*perseverance\* by allowing certain challenges to come our way.

JESUS is saying to you today: " \*DO NOT GIVE UP"\* but keep pressing on: \*forward ever and backward never.\*

The bible says:

 \*"Remember not the former things neither consider things of old"\*

Isaiah 43:18.

Finally fellow believers: \*Better days are ahead of you.\* That's why the bible says:

\*"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame and He is set down at the right hand of the throne of God".\*

Hebrews 12:2.

 \*PRAYER\*: Father grant me the \*Grace\* to continue to press on until I get to the place you have purposed for me and let me finish well in Jesus name. 🙏🏼🙏🏼🙏🏼.

 \*JESUS Reigns\*

Signed, Bro Cole