

When Things Get Hard—Should One Quit?

I have been reading in the book of Acts for my quiet time lately. There are so many life lessons in those chapters. One of the “truths” that stood out to me in this reading is no matter who or where the church was there were challenges.

The challenges seem to come in two broad categories. There were the challenges from within the Body. Examples are: 1) Some widows were overlooked due to favoritism at the daily potluck meal, Acts 6:1. 2) There was lying and deceit in the church, Acts 5:1-1. 3) A guy wanted to buy the power of the Holy Spirit, Acts 8:7-25. 4) Prejudice against gentile believers, Acts 11:1-3. 5) Suspicion of a new believer’s motives, Acts 9:26.

The list could go on and on with internal problems within the first century church. However, there were also problems from outside of the fellowship: 1) Authorities insisted the Apostles restrain their testimony of Jesus, Acts 4. 2) Time in the slammer awaited the believers, Acts 5:18; 12:3. 3) Death by stoning or beheading simply because they followed Jesus, Acts 7:59; 12:2.

All these examples serve as an admonition to our generation. We throw in the towel over trivial things. “I wasn’t greeted appropriately by an usher.” “The seats at church are too hard.” “Pastor’s sermons are too” The list goes on! I am amazed that Paul had patience with the churches at Corinth, Ephesus, Thessalonica, Galatia and even Jerusalem. All of them had “issues.” But Paul led by the Spirit of God worked to instruct and encourage those churches. Oh that we would have grace to follow his example.

My humble opinion is that gathering in our CB Cluster groups is a means of inspiring our pastors to hang in there and preach the Word!

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Central MN Cluster group left to right: Brad Little, Pat McBride, David Breederland, Stephen Schoenwald-seated, Larry Hegerle-layman from West Concord, & Dan Vesta-layman from Hastings.