

SPIRITUAL FATIGUE

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We know that for the child of God Christian service is a “given.” We attend the services of the church and we worship God according to the pattern revealed in the Text. But we know that there is more. And as James said, *“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin”* (James 4:17). The faithful Christian serves God.

The question of “How” arises. The all-inclusive answer is that Christian service is comprised of doing those things that are required to live in this world as a faithful Christian. There are worship ‘services’ and services of other type and nature that we undertake as Christians service. Cutting the grass for a dear sister is not worship but is service. There is intellectual work that one does in the service of God (2 Timothy 2:15, Romans 12:2). Indeed, Romans 12 contains quite the handy list of actions and attitude that are components of Christian service.

So the “How?” It is not so hard to learn, after all. There is however a problem we face of, “How long?” We know that the Bible says “unto death” (Revelation 2:10). And we know that Paul fought a good fight, finished his course, and kept the faith, (2 Timothy 4:6-8). But it is still hard for us sometimes, don’t you think? Paul knew that service could become difficult, for he encouraged us with these words: *“And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not”* (Galatians 6:9). Doing what’s right can get to be tough things...if it hasn’t yet for you, it will.

So, we must fight this thing called “spiritual fatigue.” It is a dangerous item. Those who study these things for a living tell us that spiritual fatigue attacks the body (folks don’t feel good), the behavior (folks act badly), the mind (folks think irrationally), the emotions (folks lose control of themselves) and can lead all the way to a perilous level of self-doubt (to the point where a person just gives up).

How do we fight spiritual fatigue? First, it helps to accept the possibility that it can happen to you. Then remember that we are involved in a great cause and the most important purpose that can be undertaken by man, the cause of Redemption in Christ. Be stubborn about this. Remember Paul’s words to Timothy (who could get a little shaky from time to time): *“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind”* (2 Timothy 1:7).

Service to God is a blessing (Galatians 6:10). So serve we shall, even in the face of fatigue. We may grow tired but we will not quit. He didn’t, did He (Luke 22:42)?