

## Turning the Crap of Life, Into the Fruit of the Spirit

### Giving Up

Life can get tough. Things start going wrong, perhaps you have made a few mistakes and everything starts to feel like it is collapsing around you. Or perhaps, you have been encountering a discouraging set of situations at work, home, family or even church. Maybe you are experiencing a situation in your life that continues to constantly deal you adversity.

The easiest thing to do it just give up. Stop working at church, stop trying to convince your supervisor and coworkers that you really care, eventually you just shut down and put it on cruise through life. Do you know people like that? They are never excited, never sad, never happy they just exist. Putting yourself out in life means that you chance being defeated or disheartened, that leads to giving up. It is so much easier, you don't have to give you best, you just exist. Is that the way Christ wants us to live our life?

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### LIFE QUESTIONS

*Are things in your life feeling like you are going to explode if you don't get some relief? Do you think it would be easier to just give up, stop trying and let the cards fall where they may? Have you given up at work, in your relationships, at church?*

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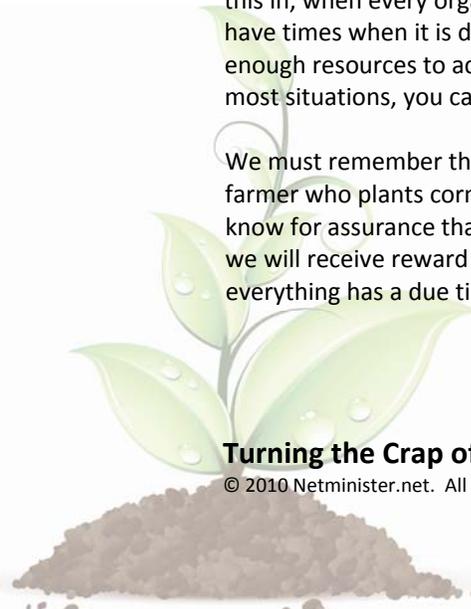
#### 1. Don't let the situation cause you to lose heart (grow weary)

##### **Gal 6:7-10**

**7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.**

Being pulled to help in an area of church, family member is sick and the job isn't going the way you had so hoped. Here you are, standing in the middle of problem after problem, feeling the pull of all the things that need to be done, all the effort that needs to be undertaken. Charities are an area we can experience this in, when every organization needs money during a down economy. Even in trying to do good, we can have times when it is difficult to keep from growing weary with all the needs. When you don't have enough resources to accomplish the tasks needed, and believe it or not, you will never have enough in most situations, you can really get tired, really get weary.

We must remember that our reward is not in this life, but at the day when Christ returns. Just like a farmer who plants corn knows he will have corn growing in his field and not olives for example. We can know for assurance that we are going to receive our reward for persevering on the day of judgment. That we will receive reward in due season is important to keep giving us encouragement as a reminder that everything has a due time.



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The real mark of a true Christian, a follower of Christ is best seen as to the path we choose. If we just desire a life of ease, or are appalled by our circumstances, easily embarrassed by our situation serving Christ needs to change our perspective. Because that is what Jesus did for us, and he should have the right to call upon us to have some less than ideal situations because of the reward He has prepared for us. We shouldn't avoid the situations but should always seek out the opportunities to do good to all, not just those who we enjoy or who will reward us.

## 2. You aren't the only one

### Heb 12:3-6

For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.<sup>4</sup> You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.<sup>5</sup> And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:

"My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; <sup>6</sup> For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."

It is difficult to feel bad about some situation when you hear about someone who has a much worse situation. Your child is sick with a stomach virus doesn't seem so bad when you hear about a child that has had cancer since her birth. When we put things into perspective, the correct perspective, we can find that maybe our situation is not as bad as we had imagined.

Jesus suffered the Cross, He was abused and beaten for the things we have, had and are going to do. Not for His own, but for ours. When we stop to consider that, we should have our view of the situation changed. When we forget that is when it is easy to simply allow ourselves to wallow in pity and doubt. Poor me parties are held when we fail to see that our situation is not the only bad situation. When we stop to consider that others preserve, namely Jesus, we should take encouragement from knowing that we are not alone.

And stop to consider that there are times when God is seeking to chasten us because we need to be corrected. There again, you aren't the only one who has been disciplined. God only disciplines those He loves because He wants us to be the best we can, and live within His will while seeking to grow in maturity.

## 3. It takes time and faith

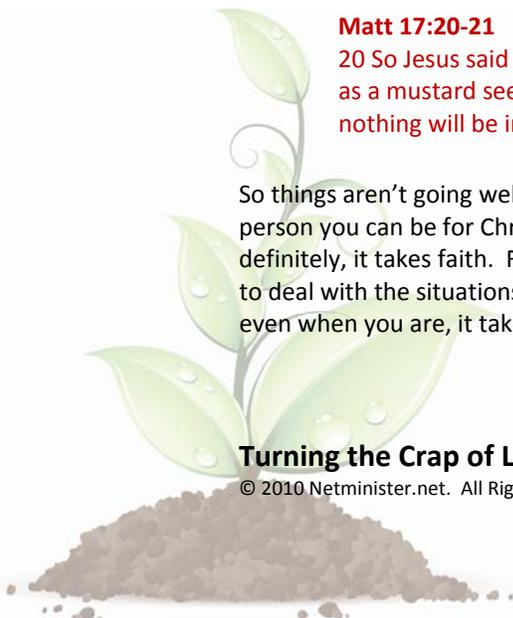
### Matt 17:20-21

<sup>20</sup> So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

So things aren't going well. You are going to church, reading your bible, trying your best to be the best person you can be for Christ. But things aren't changing, at least not right away. It takes time. Most definitely, it takes faith. Faith only comes from reading God's word. So if you are missing faith in your life to deal with the situations you are facing, chances are you aren't spending enough time in His word. And even when you are, it takes time.

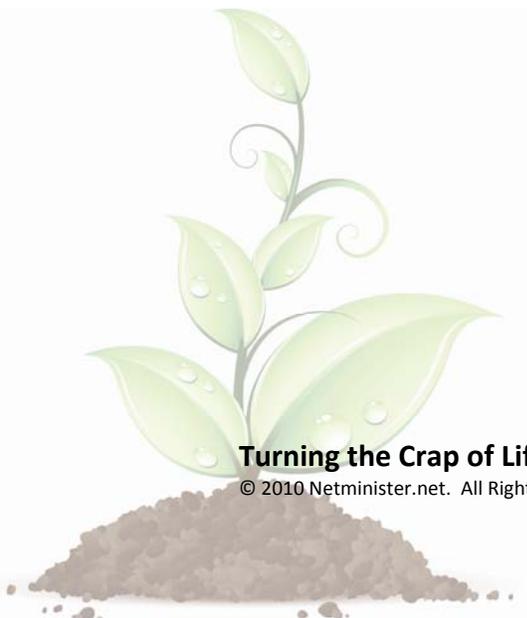
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The mustard seed was the smallest of seeds in the ancient world. No one really knew of a smaller one. What Jesus was telling His disciples was that even that smallest of seeds can move a mountain if you have faith. Unbelief is the key obstacle to overcome when we are facing discouragement leading to giving up. Don't let disbelief rob you of your blessings in Christ.

**Final Analysis:** Giving up is easy, seeing it through is tough. It takes faith, belief and effort to keep from allowing ourselves the easy way out. Don't take the easy way out!



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