

The Danger of Defeatism

Introduction

1. **Defeatism is something that some Christians give in to – and it has proven to be costly.**
 - A. **Defeatism defined:** *“the fact of being defeated; a person who too readily accepts or expects defeat.”* (Webster’s New World College Dictionary)
 - B. **Some fully expect that defeat is inevitable.**
 - 1) **They are whipped before they even get started.**

The Man Who Quits

The man who quits has a brain and hand,
 As good as the next but lacks the sand
 That would make him stick with courage stout,
 To whatever he tackles and fight it out.

He starts with a rush and a solemn vow
 That he'll soon be showing others how;
 Then something new catches his roving eye,
 And his task is left for the bye-and-bye.

It's up to each man what will become of him,
 He must find in himself the grit and vim
 That brings success; he can get any skill,
 If he takes to the task a steadfast will.

No man is beaten till he gives in;
 Hard luck can't stand for a cheerful grin;
 The man who fails needs a better excuse,
 Than the quitter's whining, "What's the use?"

For the man who quits lets his chances slip.
 Because he's too lazy to keep his grip.
 The man who sticks goes ahead with a shout,
 While the man who quits joins the, "Down and out."

C. As a man thinks within himself, so he will become.

1) The following scriptures point this out:

(Chart) Proverbs 23:7; 4:23; Luke 6:45; Matthew 6:21;
Galatians 6:9; 2 Corinthians 4:16;
1 Corinthians 15:58

D. Could it be that we are afraid of the power of the gospel?

1. Are we afraid to submit to it? Will it cost us more than we are willing to pay?

2. Notice the feeling that is expressed in Numbers 13:31:

Numbers 13:31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we."

Bible Examples of Defeatism

1. The ten spies

A. As soon as these spies saw the giants in the land they felt defeated within themselves – never giving God the chance to show His power.

Numbers 13:26-31

1) Notice now God's Attitude toward people who not only give up, but don't even try!

Numbers 14:11-12

2. The one talent man

A. He hid the talent, not even trying to gain more.

Matthew 25:18, 24-25

1) Now notice the Lord's attitude toward this man;

Matthew 25:26-27

Examples of the Opposite Spirit

1. **Caleb and Joshua**
Numbers 13:30; 14:6-10

Hebrews 12:3-4 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

2. **Abraham**
Romans 4:19-22

3. **The Apostles**

- A. **Their charge was a great one**

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- B. **There was only 12 of them – yet how many Christians?**

- C. **We can see their total determination**
Acts 4:19-20; 5:29

4. **The Apostle Paul**

A. **We first notice his tremendous sense of responsibility**

1 Corinthians 9:16 For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!

Romans 1:14-16 I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

B. **His persuasion**

2 Timothy 1:12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

C. **His absolute confidence**

Philippians 4:12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

5. **The Brethren at Antioch**

A. **They gave according to their ability**

Acts 11:29-30 Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Some Evil Effects of Defeatism

- 1. Israel**
 - A. 40 years of wandering in the wilderness**
Numbers 14:33
 - B. The defeatists did not enter the promised land**
Numbers 14:32-37
Hebrews 3:8-11, 17-19
- 2. The one talent man**
 - A. He ended up losing what he had**
Matthew 25:28
 - B. He was cast into outer darkness**
Matthew 25:30

Results of Defeatism Today

- 1. One fails to develop fully and move forward**
- 2. The spread of truth is held back**
- 3. Souls that may have been saved are lost**
- 4. We will not be able to enter into the eternal rest with God**
Hebrews 3:12-14
Hebrews 4:1-2, 11

Ecclesiastes 9:10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.

