

# Friday Reflections

*Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.*  
- Corinthians 15:58

Ever feel like you were spinning your wheels? Like you are not getting anywhere? You're in good company because even Paul felt that way at times. In his letter to the church at Corinth as Paul was wrapping up his epistle, he encouraged the church to keep at it.

Previously in the letter he admonished this young church to begin taking their faith seriously and commit to the changes the Lord was bringing into their lives. He also knew that change doesn't come easily for any of us.

So he specifically tells them not to become discouraged but rather to "be steadfast and immovable" and remain true to the Lord. That means that no matter what is happening, we are not to give in but to fight the good fight of faith.

The reason? There is a payoff! Our labor is NOT in vain. Even when we don't feel like we are gaining ground, if we are doing something for the Lord in faith, it is never useless. Even when we don't see any good coming out of things we are attempting for God, He is still at work.

Paul summed it up in a later letter: Galatians 6:9: *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we don't give up."* There is always a reward when we are serving God in faith. It may not come when WE want it to, but God promises that it will come.

So take heart today and keep on *keeping on!*

*Father in heaven, thank you that I my service to you is never in vain,  
my prayers are never useless, my faith is never wasted.  
Help me to keep my eyes on you and the prize that awaits me! Amen*

- Dr. Doug Shafer  
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