

just push

a man was sleeping at night in his cabin when suddenly his room filled with light and the Savior appeared. the Lord told the man he had work for him to do, and showed him a large rock in front of his cabin. the Lord explained that the man was to push against the rock with all his might. this the man did, day after day. for many years he toiled from sun up to sun down, his shoulders set squarely against the cold, massive surface of the unmoving rock, pushing with all his might.

each night the man returned to his cabin sore, and worn out, feeling that his whole day had been spent in vain. seeing that the man was showing signs of discouragement, the adversary decided to enter the picture by placing thoughts into the man's weary mind: "you have been pushing against that rock for a long time, and it hasn't budged. why kill yourself over this? you are never going to move it." thus giving the man the impression that the task was impossible and that he was a failure, these thoughts discouraged and disheartened the man.

"why kill myself over this?" he thought. "i'll just put in my time, giving just the minimum effort and that will be good enough." and that is what he planned to do until one day he decided to make it a matter of prayer and take his troubled thoughts to the Lord. "Lord," he said, "i have labored long and hard in your service, putting all my strength to do that which you have asked. yet, after all this time, i have not even budged that rock by half a millimeter. what is wrong?"

why am i failing?"

the Lord responded compassionately, "My child, when I asked you to serve me and you accepted, I told you that your task was to push against the rock with all your strength, which you have done. never once did I mention to you that I expected you to move it. your task was to push. and now you come to me, with your strength spent, thinking that you have failed. but, is that really so?

look at yourself. your arms are strong and muscled, your back sinew and brown, your hands are callused from constant pressure, and your legs have become massive and hard. through opposition you have grown much and your abilities now surpass that which you used to have. yet you haven't moved the rock. but your calling was to be obedient and to push and to exercise your faith and trust in My wisdom. this you have done. I, my friend, will now move the rock."

at times, when we hear a word from God, we tend to use our own intellect to decipher what He wants, when actually what God wants is just simple obedience and faith in Him. by all means, exercise the faith that moves mountains, but know that it is still God who moves the mountains.

-- author unknown

has God built us up "for such a time as this?" est 4:24
God never told us we would win the war. certainly he

has given us victories in battles, but the end of the war will be by God alone when He pours out His wrath against the ungodly.

we fight and fight against the encroaching darkness and we see it advancing from every direction. one might well be tempted to lessen their efforts if they listen to the adversary. he would love that. but i'm here to tell you, "let God be true but every man a liar." rom 3:4

the finish line is just around the corner. like a runner in a race, let us muster up all we can and expel that last great burst of effort to cross the finish line victorious. it is all of grace - "not of works, lest anyone should boast." eph 2:9

just keep pushing against that mountain of human obstacles in your life and God will be there to greet you at the finish line. "well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. enter into the joy of your lord." matt 25:21

"ours is not to wonder why - ours is just to do or die." just keep doing what He tells you to do; what His word tells you to do.