

"How Could I Do Anything Else?"



“So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.”

The Apostle Paul | Galatians 6:9 (NLT)

Though over 17 years ago, I still remember that time as if today. Sitting in my car, a list in my hand, I painstakingly made call after call. I needed appointments, people to talk to, someone to serve. How could I advance my Mission otherwise? Between attempts, I’d stare out the window as the thought “what am I doing here!” flashed through my mind. The Boxer’s goal was (and still is) to discourage me from my Mission. After a deep breath, I summoned my will and dialed another. I had to grind it out. I’d committed my Mission to God after all. Would I ever see a harvest?

Reflect: What has kept me going during prior periods of grind?

Was this a test?

"But he knows where I am going. And when he tests me, I will come out as pure as gold." Job 23:10

In retrospect, I suppose so. God knew where I was going (my Mission), but significant purification was needed. This was the beginning of a refining journey, lifelong actually, and gratefully, I continue to reap an incredible harvest from the seeds of my grind.

Are you in the midst of a grind? Expect it. How else will your commitment be proven pure?

"The Lord's promises are pure, like silver refined in a furnace, purified seven times over." King David | Psalm 12:6

In the Bible, seven signifies completeness. How many grinds must you go through for your commitment for it to become truly pure?

Consider: My commitment to my Mission will be tested over and over.

As I enter my next round of grind, my memory is being dusted off. What got me through it then?

"Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him." James 1:12 (ESV)

Certainly, I accepted the prospect of a crown of life... but that seemed

an eternity away (and I felt, better viewed as a surprise). Reflecting, I realize that my love for God had grown so strong that my self-love had begun to redirect toward loving those he loves – the ones he asked me to serve. Love is a powerful motivator!

My closest friend, a pastor, gave up the prospect of material gain to advance his ministry. I've since walked with him through multiple grinds. Each time he'd reach the point of asking, "How could I do anything else?"

The prophet Jeremiah, having diligently obeyed every direction the Lord gave him, felt his steadfast prophesizing had made his name a household joke. In the midst of his grind, he levied a complaint with the Lord only to blurt out...

"But if I say I'll never mention the Lord or speak in his name, his word burns in my heart like a fire. It's like a fire in my bones! I am worn out trying to hold it in! I can't do it!" Jeremiah 20:9

He goes on to state, "... for I have committed my cause to you." (Jeremiah 20:12) There was no turning back for Jeremiah. His love was too great. His testing had clearly purified his commitment. Like Jeremiah and my friend, you'll know your commitment is becoming pure when you come to ask, "How could I do anything else?"

Imagine: My grind plants seeds that will yield a tremendous harvest.

What harvest is possible if you give up? Will you allow yourself to succumb to the Boxer's deceit? Instead, avail yourself to God. Heighten your passion for your Mission by remembering what he's done for you. Where would you be had he not saved you? Now look at what he's asked you to do and ask,

"How could I do anything else?"

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach's Questions

- What grind has God challenged me with to purify my commitment to my Mission?
- Who will help ensure that I stay on track in the midst of my grind?
- How can I deepen my commitment to those I serve?

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

Grinds refine my commitment into pure gold

"These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world."

The Apostle Peter | 1 Peter 1:7 (NLT)



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