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STAY THE COURSE

As I view emails and social media, I am seeing that many saints are tired. The spiritual and physical attacks against them have been many, and many are ready to quit.

It reminds me of the year 2004. Three hurricanes came through the area I live in back-to-back. The first one took the roof off the strip mall that I had my business in. Thankfully, I had covered most of the furniture I sold with visqueen and there was minor damage. The other two hurricanes brought a lot of water damage and a lot of cleanups.

I had a dear friend that helped clean up the mess, and I was able to store most of my inventory in warehouses behind the strip mall. After the third hurricane and clean up came, I was ready to quit. I had taken all I thought I could take. I wanted to do something else; perhaps work for someone else and let them have the responsibility for anything going wrong.

That is when I heard the voice of the Lord speak. I heard the Holy Spirit say, "That would be okay, but you will not be able to talk about Jesus like you do in your own business. But, if that is what you want, then go ahead and close this business.

I knew God was tugging at my heart, because so many lives had been touched in that little store. I cannot even begin to tell you how many people received salvation, because I was always talking about Jesus. I decided that God wanted me to continue doing what I was doing because souls were at stake if I changed my course. I continued and God blessed that little business, and many more lives were changed until the day God had another plan.

Today, some of you reading this feel like I did. You want to quit. You are tired of the insults, mockings, betrayals and hurt that have come with your call. Yes, you might be able to do something else, but I believe God wants you to "stay the course" with what you are doing. Yes, the road has been hard, but He has been with you all the way.

Let us gain strength from this scripture found in Acts 27 where Paul was on board a ship taking him to Italy. The storms were so bad, and the ship was going to go down, but Paul heard from God. In Acts 27:20 it says, ***"And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away."*** It continues with verses 22-25 that say, ***"And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. 23 For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. 25 Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me."***

Paul's prayers kept the ship from sinking, and your prayers can also stop the enemy if you "stay the course," pray, and do not quit.