

*Reality of ministry is weariness. A man of God has to be able to overcome this.*

## **I. THE REALITY OF WEARINESS**

- A. Anyone who is saved over time/involved in ministry will experience weariness
  - 1. Physically tired/emotionally drained/spiritually depleted
    - a. Some are caught by surprise by this – because they started so excited/motivated
    - b. Some feel guilty: *I must be the weakest Christian...*
  - 2. The Bible is clear that this is a normal experience
    - a. *V29 faint: Exhausted V29 no might: Strength/ability V30 weary: to be tired V30 fall: Stumble through tiredness*
    - b. *Speaks of people: Dry ground c. NT: weary in well doing*
- B. Think of some reasons for weariness
  - 1. **Physical exhaustion:** We work jobs/take care of families – and minister to other people
  - 2. **Spiritual depletion:** Ministry is by nature giving out of our spiritual strength
    - a. *Luke 8:46 But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me."*
  - 3. **Demonic assault:** *Dan 7:25 ...wear out the saints of the most High; To decay/make old*
  - 4. **Disappointment:** *Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*
    - a. We thought they were going to make it/getting a breakthrough – they didn’t
      - 1. *It's like getting punched in the stomach!*

## **II. RESPONDING TO WEARINESS**

- A. The key is often how we respond to weariness: Some respond incorrectly
  - 1. They allow condemnation to overwhelm them
  - 2. They turn to wrong things: *Samson laid his head in Delilah's lap*
    - a. *Feed the flesh: Movies/internet*
  - 3. They accept this as being their final condition
  - 4. Some quit: *I'm not feeling it/I don't want to be a hypocrite*
- B. The key in life is not who you are/how you feel – but who is God?
  - 1. God brings the focus of weary people back to the one who is never weary!
    - a. *Isaiah 40:28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.*
  - 2. The Bible is filled with the promise of God to refresh weary people
    - a. *Isaiah 40:29 He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength.*
    - b. *Isa 44:3 For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground:*
    - c. *Isa 41:17 When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. 18 I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.*

## **III. RECOVERING FROM WEARINESS**

- A. There is a response required from weary people
  - 1. *Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*
    - a. **An attitude of faith:** I believe God's promise of refreshing
    - b. **A deliberate focus on God:**
      - 1. Asking for refreshing 2. Spending time in the word: *Pictured as bread & life*
      - 3. Praising God: *Isaiah 61:3 To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."*
  - 2. This is a test: A dividing line of a real man of God
  - 3. God gives promises of refreshing: Supernatural ability
    - a. *Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*
      - 1. Strength to soar: Rising above problems – supernatural perspective
      - 2. Strength to run: Able to make progress
      - 3. Strength to walk: Able to continue in the mundane affairs of life