God Never Faints

"Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding." Isaiah 40:28

There are seasons in the spiritual history of every child of God when Isaiah's majestic proclamation comes upon the soul with all the freshness and authority of a voice from heaven itself. It is as though the Holy Ghost, perceiving the languor of our faith, the weariness of our pilgrimage, and the secret murmurings of our hearts beneath the discipline of God's providence, suddenly arrests us with this sublime interrogation, **"Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard?"** Have these things indeed escaped you? Have you forgotten the character of him in whose hands your life and times are held? Has the remembrance faded that he who called worlds into being by the word of his power neither faints beneath the government of his universe nor grows weary in the accomplishment of his eternal counsel?

The everlasting God is never exhausted by the multitude of his mercies, never perplexed by the complexity of his providences, never surprised by the rebellion of his creatures, never delayed by the opposition of his enemies. Before him all ages lie in one perpetual present; all events are equally naked before his eye; all history unfolds precisely according to his immutable decree. His wisdom admits of no increase, his strength of no diminution, his purpose of no frustration. **"There is no searching of his understanding."** It is not merely that man has failed to discover its depths: the very attempt exceeds the measure of created intellect. Finite minds cannot compass the Lord's infinite wisdom.

How mournfully unlike is fallen man! We faint where God remains steadfast. We grow weary where God continues unwearied. We are disquieted by delay, cast down by disappointment,

discouraged by opposition, and overwhelmed by the slow unfolding of those very purposes whose end, could we but behold it, would fill our mouths with praise.

Our impatience is, in truth, one of the most subtle forms of unbelief. We readily acknowledge God's omnipotence with our lips, yet secretly deny it by demanding that his promises be fulfilled according to our own timetable. We confess his wisdom while presuming to improve upon his methods. We proclaim his sovereignty while inwardly resisting his appointments. Thus, anxiety steals into the sanctuary of the heart, and worry, which is but unbelief clothed in restless emotion, assumes the dominion which belongs only to faith. It has been well observed that worry is the vain endeavor of man to carry a burden which the Almighty has never committed into man's keeping.

Accordingly, the Apostle, speaking not by human counsel but under the immediate inspiration of the Holy Ghost, exhorts the faithful, **"Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." (Gal 6:9).** Mark well those inspired words, **"in due season."** Not in the hour which impatience would select; not at the moment which human foresight would judge most fitting; but in that season which our God's infinite wisdom, infinite love, and infinite power have together ordained from everlasting. For God is never late. What appears delay to us is punctuality with him.

The husbandman waits through many months before the harvest crowns his labor. The oak stands long amid storms before its strength is manifest. The gold remains in the furnace until every impurity has been consumed. And shall the heirs of glory complain if their heavenly Father appoints that faith likewise be perfected through endurance? The captain of our salvation himself was made perfect through sufferings **(Heb 2:10)**; and shall his soldiers expect another road than

that which their Lord has trodden before them? **(2 Tm 3:12)**. How then shall we endure without fainting?

First, by remembering that the Christian life is sustained by faith, not by feeling. Feeling belongs to our mutable nature, and changes with every providence; but faith lays hold upon the immutable word of God, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning **(Jas 1:17)**.

Secondly, by drawing continually from the inexhaustible fullness of our blessed Lord. The Apostle gloried not in personal sufficiency but in conscious weakness, because thereby the power of Christ rested upon him **(2 Cor 12:9)**. Our poverty is no hindrance where his riches are infinite; our weakness no obstacle where his strength is made perfect.

Thirdly, by searching diligently the holy scriptures, wherein the Holy Ghost has preserved for our instruction the lives of those ancient worthies who through faith inherited the promises **(Heb 6:12)**. Abraham waited when sight afforded no encouragement. Joseph suffered when God's providence appeared mysterious. David wandered though already anointed king. Job sat among the ashes before his latter end exceeded his beginning. The prophets endured reproach; the apostles persecution; the martyrs death itself. Yet not one trusted soul was finally confounded. The Lord may move with measured pace, but he never misses his appointed end.

Fourthly, let us remember that he who neither faints nor grows weary has not left his people to labor in their own strength. The Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son, has taken up his gracious habitation within the believer. The same omnipotent Spirit who brooded over the face of the waters at creation now strengthens the weakest saint to persevere unto the end. Thus, the perseverance of the faithful is not the triumph of human determination but the continual operation of God's grace.

Lastly, let us maintain perpetual vigilance against that old serpent, the devil, who has from the beginning sought to persuade God's people that obedience is fruitless, waiting unnecessary, and perseverance vain. His ancient devices have not changed. He whispers discouragement where God has spoken promise; he magnifies present affliction while concealing eternal glory; he urges surrender at the very threshold of victory. Happy is that servant who answers every temptation not with his own reasoning but with the unfailing reliance on the holy scriptures.

Beloved brethren, the longest night has its appointed morning. The heaviest cross shall one day give place to the everlasting crown. Every tear gathered by the Father's hand shall yet become a jewel of praise. Every burden patiently borne for Christ shall contribute to that **"far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Cor 4:17)** which eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath entered into the heart of man. **(1 Cor 2:9)**.

Therefore, let not your hands hang down. Let not your hearts be troubled. Let not your confidence be shaken by the slowness of God's providential dealings. The eternal King has never forgotten one promise he has uttered, nor abandoned one soul that has trusted in his name.

"For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." (Psalm 30:5)

Go forward, then, with holy confidence. The God who neither faints nor grows weary shall himself sustain his redeemed until faith is lost in sight, hope in fruition, and prayer in everlasting praise before the throne of the Lamb.