



*Devotional for Day 25, Saturday, March 18*

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## Intention:

May God give us all more confidence in the gospel and His sovereign grace and may this trust—and the peace that comes with it—undergird all our pro-life efforts.

## Scripture:

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

— *Galatians 6:9*

## Reflection:

Sometimes we think—or certainly want—our discipleship efforts to be like biting into a York Peppermint Patty: joy explodes into the lives of those we're ministering to and things are never the same. Somebody gets introduced to Jesus and they're instantly transported into their "best life now" and live problem free, henceforth, forever more.

This is a fantasy and an unrealistic expectation that veteran believers must purge from their service to Christ. The problem is not God's power. He can knock someone off their horse (Acts 9) or even cause a donkey to do his bidding (Num. 22), but that's not His normal MO. The invitation to become a disciple of Jesus Christ is a costly, long-term journey, which many turn away from. Some go away grieved (Matt. 19:22) and we grieve when they go away. Further, the wise servant of Christ will avoid over-helping. Yet, this doesn't change the need for patience and longsuffering. Nor does it change our excitement in seeing even one sinner come to repentance (Luke 15:10)!

Those of us who've been at compassionate pro-life ministry for any length of time know that ministry to the abortion-vulnerable is challenging; it's private and hidden; further,

it's been politicized and disconnected from the gospel, discipleship, and grace. If things are going to change, the Church must lead and we will all need the patience and perseverance of the hardworking farmer (2 Tim. 2:1-6). As the late A.W. Pink has well said: "A lot of our so-called Christian work today reminds me of little children when they first witness father or mother doing some gardening. The ground is prepared and then the seed is sown, and every day the child goes into the garden and he looks around to see if the seed is beginning to sprout, and if it doesn't show any signs and he wants to make sure that the seed is beginning to sprout, he just scratches around amongst the soil. He wants to SEE something. My friends, that is what a lot of us are doing in so-called Christian work today! O we have so little confidence in the divine 'seed' to bring about the harvest that God has ordained it shall do."

## Prayer:

God, we can't decrease the number of abortions in a transformative way without You working behind the scenes to change the human heart. Please strengthen Your churches and parishes to lead with love and compassion. Please strengthen our pastors and priests to lead with grace and courage, and please strengthen me today.

Lord, please help me trust in Your sovereign purposes and plant seeds that lead to discipleship. Please give me a profound knowledge that I can't control the results, nor do I have the key to anyone's heart. Only You do.