**HEART TO HEART**/A word of hope and encouragement by Mennie Morrison

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**THE 3 “Ds” DISCIPLINE, DILIGENT AND DETERMINATION (PART III)**

Greetings to you in the all-powerful Name of Jesus. I pray that you are doing well and walking in **Discipline, Diligence and Determination**. In August of this year, we started this teaching series entitled, **The “3 Ds” Discipline, Diligent and Determination**. This month of October will be our final part of this 3 part teaching and will be focused on our 3rd characteristic, **Determination**.

If it’s ever been a time in our history for believers to be **Determined** in their faith and what they believe, the time is Right Now. Let’s see what Dictionary.com says the word **Determination** means: (1) the act of coming to a decision or of fixing or settling a purpose (2) the quality of being **resolute**; firmness of purpose. This 2nd definition says **determination** means resolute, so let’s see what **Resolute** means: (1) firmly resolved or determined (2) characterized by firmness and determination.

The first scripture that comes to mind as we are looking at having **determination** as a believer in Jesus is: **I Corinthians 15:58 (AMP)** *Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord [always doing your best and doing more than is needed], being continually aware that your labor [even to the point of exhaustion] in the Lord is not futile nor wasted [it is never without purpose].*

I want us to focus on (2) words from the scripture that we just read; Steadfast and Immovable. Let’s first see what the word **Steadfast** means: (1) fixed in direction (2) firm in purpose, resolution, faith (3) unwavering, firmly established (4) firmly fixed in place or position. Wow, that sounds like much like what **Determination** means. Looking at our scripture in

**I Corinthians**, let’s see how closely being steadfast resembles being **Determined**.

Our scripture encourages us to not only be **steadfast** but **immovable**. The Word **immovable** means (1) incapable of being moved; fixed; stationary (2) incapable of being influenced by feeling (3) incapable of being moved from one's purpose, opinion, etc.; steadfast. So as we are looking at this scripture and our encouragement to have **determination**, we have to be **Fixed**, **Immovable**, and **Steadfast** in every area of our Christian Life in the Lord. We can’t afford to be moved, deterred, waver or distracted in any way. We have to have laser focused vision and **determination**. In the world that we are living in, there is so much that is trying to get us off the things of God and pull us in the opposite direction of being **Disciplined**, **Diligent** and having **Determination,** but in the Name of Jesus and with the Power of the Holy Spirit, we cannot allow this to happen.

As we are looking at our **3rd “D”** with (**Determination**) being our last one, let’s read **Isaiah 50:7 (TPT)** *The Lord Yahweh empowers me, so I am not humiliated. For that reason, with holy* ***determination****,I will do his will and not be ashamed*. The Prophet Isaiah was so committed to God (Yahweh) that no matter what persecution that he had to endure, he was **determined** and had holy **determination** as the Passion translation puts it, to do the will of the Lord.

The first scripture we looked at in **I Corinthians 15:58** talked about being steadfast as we are looking at **determination** in our walk with God. **Psalm 112:7 (AMP)** says: *He will not fear bad news; His heart is steadfast, trusting [confidently relying on and believing] in the Lord.* This scripture is letting us know that David was declaring that no matter what he was going through and no matter what bad news was going on around him, his heart (mind) would be steadfast (**determined**) in the Lord.

Now let’s look at being **determined** as it relates to being immovable. **Ephesians 6:13 (AMP)**

*Therefore, put on the complete armor of God, so that you will be able to [successfully] resist and stand your ground in the evil day [of danger], and having done everything [that the crisis demands], to stand firm [in your place, fully prepared, immovable, victorious].* In order to be **Determined** in our walk with the Lord, we must be fully armored at all times so that we can not only have **determination** but be immovable as well. I have a minister friend that preached on this scripture and pointed out that the Lord says for us to **Put on the Complete (Whole) armor** of God but it never said to take it off, wow I thought that was so powerful.

Another definition of **Determined** or **Determination** is to be Firm, let’s see what the Word says about being firm in our walk with God and Faith in Him. Let’s start in **Psalm 1:3 (TPT)** *He will be standing* ***firm*** *like a flourishing tree planted by God’s design, deeply rooted by the brooks of bliss, bearing fruit in every season of life. He is never dry, never fainting, ever blessed, ever prosperous.* This chapter of Psalm is giving the contrast between the righteous and the wicked and verse three is letting us know that those that are obedient and delights in God’s Word will be firm (**determined**) blessed by God in every way. Wow, I raise my hand to be that kind of person, what about you?

Now, let’s go over to the New Covenant as we are looking at having **Determination** in these last and evil days. **I Corinthians 16:13 (AMP)** *Be on guard; stand firm in your faith [in God, respecting His precepts and keeping your doctrine sound]. Act like [mature] men and be courageous; be strong.*

This chapter is some of Paul’s instructions to the Corinthian church. The first part of the chapter is talking about the offerings that they collect for the relief of the people. He goes on to talk about the upcoming visits from some of his fellow laborers. Then in verse 13 he is encouraging the church to be on guard, firm (**determined**) in their faith. Respecting the Word of God and keeping the sound doctrine and being mature and courageous. From the amplified version of this scripture, he was saying a lot to the church at Corinthian in just this one verse but we want to focus on the very first part: *Be on guard; stand firm in your faith [in God, respecting His precepts and keeping your doctrine sound].* What great encouragement we have from God’s Word.

**Galatians 5:1 (TPT)** *At last we have freedom, for Christ has set us free! We must always cherish this truth[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+5%3A1&version=TPT#fen-TPT-10476a)*] and firmly refuse to go back into the bondage of our past.* I love this scripture in **Galatians**. This is Paul’s letter to the churches in Galatia and he is encouraging them to understand that Christ Jesus has set them free and to Stand Firm (**Be Determined**) in their Freedom in Christ and do not go back or allow themselves to be in bondage again. This is a powerful Word of encouragement for us in the body today with all that is trying to get us to compromise our walk with the Lord. Let us be **Determined** and stand Firm in our Liberty in Christ.

It is so much in God’s Word to encourage us to be **determined**, stand firm, immovable, etc. but we will look at (2) more in regards to being firm (**Determined**). **James 4:7 (AMP)** *So* *submit to [the authority of] God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him] and he will flee from you.*

Scholars says that this book is written by James the brother of Jesus. It appears in the 4 chapter of James that he is given them somewhat of a warning and rebuke about quarreling, wrong motives in their heart. Being too much a friend of the world. In verse 6 he talks about how God has given us His Grace but He resist the proud but gives favor/grace to the humble. Then in verse 7 he gives us an answer of how to overcome all of the above mentioned. Submitting to the authority of God, resisting the devil and then Standing Firm (**Being Determined**) in our Faith and Walk with God. Then he said, that is when the enemy will flee from you. We must demonstrate **Determination** against the enemy in Jesus Name.

I love the **Amplified** version of **I Peter 5:9**, let’s read it now: *But resist him, be firm in your faith [against his attack—rooted, established, immovable], knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being experienced by your brothers and sisters throughout the world. [You do not suffer alone.]* As we endeavor to havedetermination in our walk with the Lord, we must Resist the enemy and be firm (**determined**) in our faith so that we can be rooted, established and immovable. We see several definitions of **Determined** in this one scripture; firm (rooted), established and immovable.

In closing this last part of our (3) part series, we will look at another word that denotes determination and that is Fixed which can also denote being immovable. **Psalm 112:7 (AMPC)** *He shall not be afraid of evil tidings; his heart is firmly fixed, trusting (leaning on and being confident) in the Lord.* This **112th** chapter is talking about how blessed the person is that fears (reverences) the Lord. Then verse 7 lets us know that this kind of person will not be afraid of evil tiding but rather his heart will be fixed ( firmly **determined)** trusting, leaning and being confident in the Lord. In the days we are living in, we must have **Determination** as never before. The world is trying to cause us to back down on what we stand for and believe, and we can’t allow the world to dictate to us in our stand for our Lord. We must be **determined** to stand for Christ as all cost.

Next, we will look **Proverbs 4:25 (TPT)** *Set your gaze on the path before you. With fixed purpose, looking straight ahead, ignore life’s distractions.* The book of **Proverbs** as we all know is a book full of wisdom keys. This **fourth** chapter is a Father’s instruction to his child and verse **25** is encouraging us to have focus vision and set our gaze, attention and affection on what is before us having fixed (**Determination**) on our purpose. When we look straight ahead being fixed and **determined** in God and His Word, we will be able to ignore life’s distraction, in Jesus Name.

Last scripture in closing will be in **I Corinthians 16:13-14 (AMP)** but before we read it, let’s see why Paul was writing to the church at Corinth before we read our closing scripture. He wanted to answer some questions that the body of believers had and to also address some issues. Paul was concerned with the rampant immorality associated with the paganism of Corinth. Now we will read our scripture: ***13****Be on guard; stand firm in your faith [in God, respecting His precepts and keeping your doctrine sound]. Act like [mature] men and be courageous; be strong.****14****Let everything you do be done in love [motivated and inspired by God’s love for us].*

As we close out this powerful teaching series on the **3 Ds (Discipline, Diligent and Determination)**, let’s be encouraged by this amazing scripture in **I Corinthians** that’s power packed. It is encouraging us to: Be on **guard, standing firm (Determined)** in our **faith in God**. **Respecting His Word** and being **Mature** men and women of God. As we are endeavoring to walk in the **3 Ds**, we have to be Courageous and Strong. Finally, let everything we do be done in Love motivated and inspired by God’s amazing, incomprehensible Love that He has shed aboard in our heart as we serve Him with **Discipline, Diligence and Determination!**

My prayer is that you were encouraged, motivated and enriched by the Word of God as we looked in the mirror or God’s Word to encourage us to be **Disciplined, Diligent and Determined** in our walk and calling in Christ Jesus. Please visit us next month as we will be starting a new teaching. If you don’t know Jesus as your Lord and Savior so you too can really walk in the **3 Ds**, please visit the home page of this website and scroll to the bottom to find the Prayer of Salvation. Read and Pray that prayer, mean it from your heart and you will be born again. Remember until next time God has Blessed you to Be A Blessing!