



“Determined Devotion to God”

**“Devotion to God is still
a voluntary thing; hence
the differences of
attainment among
Christians.”**

Hudson Taylor

Deuteronomy 6: 4-6 NLT

⁴“Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone.⁵ And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. ⁶ And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today.

1 Corinthians 15: 58 NKJV

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

**“We are called to an
eternal preoccupation
with God.”**

A.W. Tozer

Q: Why do we need determination?

A: Struggles, particularly, with God's

- Timing
- Plans
- Will
- Control
- Mercy and Grace
- Love

Psalms 77: 2, 7-10 NLT

²When I was in deep trouble, I searched for the Lord. All night long I prayed, with hands lifted toward heaven, but my soul was not comforted.

⁷Has the Lord rejected me forever? Will he never again be kind to me?⁸ Is his unfailing love gone forever? Have his promises permanently failed? ⁹Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he slammed the door on his compassion? ¹⁰And I said, “This is my fate; the Most High has turned his hand against me.”

Q: What can test our devotion?

1

Rizpah 2 Sam 21

kept watch until
rain came

2

Abraham Gen 18

obeyed when the
cost was personal

3

Paul Acts 21

went onward
despite warnings

4

Jesus Luke 9:51

set His face toward
Jerusalem

Loss, cost, delay, rejection, sacrifice, and more can all
put devotion to the test.

Rizpah: devotion that refuses to abandon the place of pain

2 Samuel 21:10–14 — determined vigil, honour and intercession



A vigil of costly devotion

“From the beginning of the harvest until the rain poured down... she did not let the birds touch them by day or the wild animals by night.”

2 Samuel 21:10

Devotion remains when grief would make others leave.

She could not change the past, but she could honour what remained. Her persistent vigil moved the matter before David and led to burial and national healing.

Psalms 77: 11-12 NLT

¹¹ But then I recall all you have done, O LORD; I remember your wonderful deeds of long ago. ¹² They are constantly in my thoughts. I cannot stop thinking about your mighty works. ¹³ O God, your ways are holy. Is there any god as mighty as you? ¹⁴ You are the God of great wonders! You demonstrate your awesome power among the nations.

¹⁵ By your strong arm, you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

Q: How can we stay determined?

1. Recall/Remember/Engage your thoughts with

God's works

God's ways

God's character

No test or trial should reshape your view of God; return to His Words.

2. Draw 'nearer' to Him with

Questions

Cries

Emotions

Whatever the struggle, don't let it draw you away from God; keep returning to Him.

'His Words and His Presence'

Acts 2:42 NIV

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

Galatians 6:9 TLB

⁹ And let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t get discouraged and give up.

‘Determination can be sustained on a foundation of Routine’

The point: not through self-generated will

Philippians 4: 12-13 NLT

¹² I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. ¹³ For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

2 Corinthians 12: 9 NKJV

⁹ And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”

A call to determined devotion

Four responses for the believer

Decide Choose the Lord before the test comes.

Endure Keep watch through delay, grief and pressure.

Obey Move when God speaks, even before you see provision.

Finish Value God's assignment above personal comfort.

Prayer: "Lord, give me a heart that loves You fully, a will that obeys You promptly, and a spirit that remains faithful until the end."

Discussion Questions

1. What does “determined devotion to God” mean to you?
2. What things can test our devotion to God?
3. How can we remain devoted when we are struggling with God?
4. How important are spiritual routines to maintaining devotion?
5. Which of the four responses—Decide, Endure, Obey or Finish—do you most need to develop right now?



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