



I'M NOT DONE YET

Heroes of Faith in the Old and New Testament

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OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT

Written by
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Why don't you decree with me and make a Faith Declaration: "I'm Not Done Yet!"

Introduction

Throughout the Old and New Testaments, we find numerous leaders and figures who faced immense challenges, setbacks, and moments of despair. Yet, despite these trials, they persevered, often reminding themselves, "I'm not done yet." This booklet explores several of these heroes of faith, highlighting their struggles and triumphs, and encouraging us to see that God has a plan for each of us, no matter how difficult our circumstances may seem.

1. Moses: The Reluctant Leader

Background

Moses was called by God to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. Despite his initial reluctance and feelings of inadequacy, he accepted the challenge.

Struggles

- **Self-Doubt:** Moses questioned his ability to lead the people (Exodus 3:11-12).
- **Confrontation with Pharaoh:** Faced rejection and hardship when Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites

go (Exodus 5:1-23).

- Wilderness Wanderings: Led a stubborn people through the wilderness for 40 years, often feeling overwhelmed (Numbers 11:14-15).

Resolution

Despite these challenges, Moses continually sought God's guidance and strength. He declared, "I'm not done yet," as he led the people to the Promised Land, even when it seemed impossible.

Fable: The Reluctant Eagle

Once, a young eagle was afraid to fly. He watched other birds soar high in the sky but felt unworthy. One day, a wise old owl told him, "You were born to fly." Inspired, the eagle took a leap of faith and soared into the sky. Like Moses, we often doubt our capabilities, but we must remember that God has equipped us to rise above our fears.

2. David: The Anointed King in Hiding

Background

David was chosen by God to be king of Israel but faced many trials before he could take the throne.

Struggles

- **Saul's Jealousy:** David was hunted by King Saul, forcing him to live as a fugitive (1 Samuel 19:1-2).
- **Personal Loss:** Faced the death of his son and the betrayal of his own son, Absalom (2 Samuel 12:15-18; 2 Samuel 15).
- **Battles and Defeats:** Endured many battles and personal failures (1 Samuel 30:1-6).

3. David's Failure: Infidelity and Restoration

Background

David, despite being a man after God's own heart, faced one of his greatest failures when he committed adultery with Bathsheba.

Struggles

- **The Sin with Bathsheba:** David saw Bathsheba bathing and, despite knowing she was married, summoned her to the palace, leading to her pregnancy (2 Samuel 11:1-5).
- **Murder of Uriah:** To cover his sin, David orchestrated the death of Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, by sending him to the front lines of battle (2 Samuel 11:14-17).
- **Consequences:** The prophet Nathan confronted

David, revealing God's displeasure. David faced severe consequences, including the death of the child born from this union (2 Samuel 12:1-14).

Burnout and Battle Fatigue

- Emotional Toll: David experienced deep remorse and guilt for his actions, leading to emotional and spiritual burnout. He was overwhelmed by the weight of his sin and its consequences.
- Psalm 51: In his despair, David penned Psalm 51, a heartfelt cry for mercy and restoration. He acknowledged his sin and pleaded with God to "create in me a clean heart" (Psalm 51:10).

Resolution

Despite the gravity of his failures, David did not allow his mistakes to define him. He recognized that God was not finished with him. He declared, "I'm not done yet; Jehovah is not done with me yet." David repented sincerely, sought God's forgiveness, and continued to lead Israel, ultimately becoming a symbol of redemption and grace.

Metaphor: The Broken Pot

A potter once crafted a beautiful pot but accidentally broke it. Instead of discarding it, the potter repaired

it with gold. The pot, now a mosaic of gold and clay, became more valuable than before. Similarly, David's brokenness led to a restoration that showcased God's grace and mercy.

4. Elijah: The Prophet of Fire

Background

Elijah was a powerful prophet who stood against the idolatry of Israel.

Struggles

- Jezebel's Threat: After defeating the prophets of Baal, Elijah fled from Queen Jezebel, feeling defeated and alone (1 Kings 19:1-4).
- Despair: He expressed a desire to die, feeling that his ministry was over (1 Kings 19:4).

Resolution

God sent an angel to strengthen him and reminded him of his purpose. Elijah continued his prophetic ministry, saying, "I'm not done yet," ultimately passing on his mantle to Elisha.

Analogy: The Flickering Flame

A candle flickers in the wind, sometimes seeming like it might extinguish. Yet, with a gentle breath, it can be reignited. Elijah, like that candle, faced overwhelming odds but found strength to continue his mission, sparking hope in the hearts of many.

5. Job: The Patient Sufferer

Background

Job was a wealthy man who lost everything—his family, health, and wealth—yet remained faithful to God.

Struggles

- **Severe Loss:** Endured the loss of his children and possessions (Job 1:13-22).
- **Health Crisis:** Suffered from painful sores and isolation (Job 2:7-8).
- **Friends' Accusations:** Faced criticism from friends who believed he must have sinned (Job 4-25).

Resolution

Job wrestled with his faith but ultimately declared, “I know that my Redeemer lives” (Job 19:25). He affirmed, “I’m not done yet,” and was restored by God.

Restoration: Double for His Trouble

In Job 42:10, we see God restoring Job's fortunes and giving him double what he had before. This powerful promise illustrates that even after intense suffering, God has the capacity to bless us abundantly and restore what was lost.

Fable: The Resilient Tree

In a storm, many trees fell, but one small tree bent with the wind and survived. After the storm, it stood tall, stronger for having endured the tempest. Job, like that tree, bent but did not break, emerging stronger in his faith.

6. Nehemiah: The Rebuilder of Walls

Background

Nehemiah was a cupbearer to the king of Persia who felt called to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Struggles

- **Opposition:** Faced ridicule and threats from enemies like Sanballat and Tobiah (Nehemiah 4:1-3).
- **Discouragement:** The workers became discouraged due to the enormity of the task (Nehemiah 4:10).

Resolution

Nehemiah encouraged the people to keep working, saying, “I’m not done yet,” and they completed the wall in just 52 days (Nehemiah 6:15).

Metaphor: The Phoenix Rising

Just as the mythical phoenix rises from its ashes, Nehemiah led the people to rebuild their city from ruins. Their determination and faith brought new life to a broken community.

7. Esther: The Brave Queen

Background

Esther was a Jewish queen who risked her life to save her people from annihilation.

Struggles

- **Fear and Uncertainty:** Faced the daunting task of approaching the king without being summoned (Esther 4:11).
- **Personal Sacrifice:** Aware that doing so could lead to her death (Esther 4:16).

Resolution

Esther boldly declared, “If I perish, I perish,” choosing to act for her people. She exemplified the spirit of “I’m not done yet,” leading to the salvation of the Jews (Esther 7:3-4).

Analogy: The Hidden Jewel

A jewel hidden in the dirt may seem worthless until it is discovered and polished. Esther, initially in a position of obscurity, emerged as a powerful force for her people, revealing her true value and purpose.

8. Peter: The Restored Disciple

Background

Peter, one of Jesus’ closest disciples, denied knowing Jesus three times during His trial.

Struggles

- Denial: Faced shame and guilt after denying Jesus, feeling like a failure (Luke 22:54-62).
- Post-Resurrection Doubt: After Jesus’ resurrection, Peter struggled with his identity and purpose (John 21:3).

Resolution

Jesus restored Peter after His resurrection, asking him three times if he loved Him (John 21:15-17). Peter declared, “I’m not done yet,” and went on to preach the first salvation message at Pentecost (Acts 2:38). He was filled with the Holy Spirit and became a foundational leader in the early Church.

Fable: The Broken Net

A fisherman once had a net that was torn and unusable. Instead of discarding it, he repaired it with care. When he cast it again, it caught more fish than ever before. Peter, like the net, was restored and became instrumental in gathering souls for the Kingdom.

Conclusion

The stories of these leaders remind us that every great leader faces moments of doubt, fear, and potential defeat. Yet, through faith, perseverance, and reliance on God, they declared, “I’m not done yet.” As we navigate our own challenges, let us remember that God has a plan for us and that our journey is not over. No matter how bitter or sweet our experiences may be, we can trust that God is working in our lives.

Call to Action

Take a moment to reflect on your own life. Where have you felt like giving up? What challenges seem insurmountable? Declare today: “I’m not done yet!” Embrace the promise that God has a plan for your future, and continue to move forward in faith.

This sermon booklet serves as a source of inspiration, encouraging believers to look at the examples of these Old Testament and New Testament heroes and apply their lessons of perseverance and faith to their own lives. David’s journey, particularly his fall and restoration, exemplifies the power of repentance and the assurance that God is always ready to use us, regardless of our past mistakes. Through the stories of Moses, Elijah, Job, Nehemiah, Esther, and Peter, we are reminded that our failures do not define us; rather, it is our response to those failures that shapes our destiny in God’s plan.

In the end, like Job, we can trust that God can restore us, often giving us double for our trouble, as we continue to declare, “I’m not done yet!”

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