

SEVEN “SECRETS” TO NEVER GIVING UP YOUR FAITH

Roy T. Bennet (Author, living as of 2022) – *“It doesn’t matter how many times you get knocked down. All that matters is you get up one more time than you were knocked down.”*

2 Corinthians 4:8-9 – [8] *“We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; [9] persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.”* (NIV)

Paul uses four terms to describe his circumstances: *“Hard pressed;” “Perplexed;” “Persecuted;”* and *“Struck down.”*

Then he uses four terms to describe his response: *“Not crushed;” “Not in despair;” “Not abandoned;”* and *“Not destroyed.”*

PAUL’S SEVEN “SECRETS” TO NEVER GIVING UP HIS FAITH

STAYING POWER SECRET #1 – REMEMBER GOD LOVES ME

2 Corinthians 4:1 – *“Therefore, since through God’s mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.”* (NIV)

STAYING POWER SECRET #2 – MAINTAIN A CLEAR CONSCIENCE

2 Corinthians 4:2 – *“We have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know this.”* (NIV & New Living)

STAYING POWER SECRET #3 – HAVE THE RIGHT MOTIVATION

2 Corinthians 4:5 – *“We don’t go around preaching about ourselves; we preach Christ Jesus, the Lord. All we say about ourselves is that we are your servants because of what Jesus has done for us.”* (New Living)

Colossians 3:23 – *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, rather than for people.”* (NIV & New Living)

STAYING POWER SECRET #4 – I MUST ACCEPT MY HUMAN LIMITATIONS

2 Corinthians 4:7 – “We are like clay jars in which this treasure [the gospel, the love of Christ] is stored. The real power comes from God and not from us.” (Contemporary English Version)

STAYING POWER SECRET #5 – I MUST LOVE OTHER PEOPLE

2 Corinthians 4:15 – “All this [all of the negative things that happened to Paul] is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.” (NIV)

2 Corinthians 5:14 – “The love of Christ compels us.” (NIV)

STAYING POWER SECRET #6 – I MUST TAKE TIME TO RECHARGE

2 Corinthians 4:16 – “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.” (NIV)

STAYING POWER SECRET #7 – I MUST KEEP MY EYES ON THE GOAL

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 – [17] “Our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory [reward] that far outweighs them all. [18] So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” (NIV)

Focus on the eternal and let that be your motivation!

Galatians 6:9 – “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if WE DO NOT GIVE UP.” (NIV)

Key Point: When you feel like giving up – you have to push through those feelings and focus on the big picture

Robert Schuller (AD 1926-2015, noted for his ministry at the Crystal Cathedral): “Tough times never last; tough people do.”