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Here's Hope

By Rev. Jerry Rea

Until the End

This isn't working for me. That's sometimes what we say, just before we quit. A lot of well-meaning and good people just quit. Some of our best soldiers in the faith are of the "used to" type. You know, they used to go to church, or they used to teach Sunday school. What about this; "I used to be a deacon." Sometimes in such a conversation a long story will follow ending with "that's when I quit." Most folks want you to say, "Well, I can understand why you quit." So there, they've told their story and even gotten support in it. That's supposed to make it okay. Just because someone says they understand why you've quit, doesn't make your excuse any more legitimate. You might just tell this truth. "I just got worn out."

Here's a thought. You never know if you've won a ball game until the end. The same is true in the spiritual world. Until you stand before the master, you really don't know if it's going to "work." There are so many, many things that we just don't know. We often don't know why things "don't work." But, I'll venture this. You really don't know if it has worked until the end. Just around the corner of your future, God may be sending you a harvest. In the silence of your neighbor that you've witnessed to maybe you're making progress you will never know. Just because someone acts as if they are not listening, it doesn't mean they are not listening.

From time to time, senior adults get to talking about those who've had great and lasting influence on their lives. Somewhere in the conversation someone may say, "I don't think he ever knew what an influence he had on my life." That's sad. You'd hope people would know. It often doesn't work out that way, however. I don't understand that, but I do understand this. You never know you've won until the end. So, while your seeds are sprouting, or your fruit is forming, wait faithfully on the harvest of the Lord. While rain clouds are gathering don't quit praying for rain. While your kids are growing up, don't quit. While your efforts seem wasted, don't quit. While the night is cold and damp, don't quit believing in the sunrise.

Until the End

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