

The Secret of ‘Staying Power’

Dictionary: *The ability to maintain an activity or commitment despite fatigue or difficulty; stamina.*

The story of Baruch, scribe to Jeremiah the Prophet.

Jeremiah 36 - 45

Baruch (whose name means “Blessed”) was of a noble family and lived in Judah during the last days of the nation before they were invaded by Babylon and carried off there as exiles because of their continual rebellion and sin before God.

Baruch was the faithful scribe of Jeremiah the Prophet whom God had raised up as his mouthpiece speaking out many warnings to the King of Judah and to the people to turn back to God to avoid His judgement.

Jeremiah 45:1-5 The prophet Jeremiah gave a message to Baruch son of Neriah in the fourth year of the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah, after Baruch had written down everything Jeremiah had dictated to him. He said, 2: “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to you, Baruch: 3: You have said, ‘I am overwhelmed with trouble! Haven’t I had enough pain already? And now the LORD has added more! I am worn out from sighing and can find

no rest.’ 4: “Baruch, this is what the LORD says: ‘I will destroy this nation that I built. I will uproot what I planted. 5: Are you seeking great things for yourself? Don’t do it! I will bring great disaster upon all these people; but I will give you your life as a reward wherever you go. I, the LORD, have spoken!’”

Testimony of Jessie Gregg, English missionary to China from 1895 to 1937.

Jessie Gregg went to China at the age of 22 with the China Inland Mission under the leadership of Hudson Taylor.

She arrived just before the Boxer uprising of 1899 which was against all foreigners being in China and anything connected to western culture.

52 adults and 16 children of the China Inland Mission were killed during this time. Jessie was captured by the Boxers along with the missionary family she lived with and endured a time of great suffering and persecution.

She was serving in the interior of China and walked many hours from village to village sharing the gospel. She was usually with one of the other missionary ladies but this time she was alone and only the hired men who pulled the cart with

her belongings etc. She was feeling lonely and so she started to sing the hymn “I need Thee, O I need Thee, every hour I need Thee”. Suddenly she heard another voice take up the words with her – “I need thee, O I need thee, every hour I need thee”. “He only showed me His hands and His feet and then He was gone” she said. But the memory and the message remained: She needed Him, oh how she needed him but He needed her! To reach those women in China, Christ needed her.

**From the book “Each to her Post”
by Phyllis Thompson
– 6 women of the China
Inland Mission (now OMF)**

***Ecclesiastics 10:4 AMP** If the temper of the ruler rises against you, do not leave your post [showing resistance], because composure and calmness prevent great offenses.*

Altogether, Jessie Gregg spent 45 years in China and saw the next generation of young missionaries come and continue the work they had started.

The attitude shown by the missionaries of the China Inland Mission during those years of suffering and death during the Boxer Rebellion was a testimony of God’s love and grace towards

the Chinese people they had been called to minister to.

Many Chinese believers along with Christian missionaries of other denominations also lost their lives.

- Learn how to live and behave in a Godly way before an ungodly and offensive world.
- Learning how to deal with the stress and anxiety in our jobs or other responsibilities that we have.

Don't make a hasty decision to run away out of anger or reaction.

- Joseph in Egypt
- Elijah with the evil king Ahab
- The other prophets throughout the Old Testament who were treated with contempt by the evil kings of Israel and Judah.

Jesus Endured

Hebrews 12:3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

So, what is the secret of ‘staying power’ for us as believers today?

- It is the OPPOSITE of our own ability – as was stated in the dictionary meaning.
- It is the enablement of the Spirit of God within us.
- His Presence that will never leave us.
- The Godhead that lives within us.
- The fellowship and power of the Holy Spirit.
- The finished work of Christ on the cross that has forever defeated all the power of the devil.

This is the ‘staying power’ that keeps us in all circumstances of life.