

## **DETERMINED PURPOSE**

(Philippians 3)

[For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him and that I may in that same way come to know the power out flowing from His resurrection, and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed to His death. . . I press on to lay hold of and make my own, that for which Christ Jesus has laid hold of me and made me His own.

The determined purposes of Paul are like to be compared to no others today. The same zeal he had for Judaism, he showed to have for the cause of the Gospel. Once he saw the light, he took off with it and shone in his dark world of yesterday with courage, focused on his determined purposes, among many, to know Christ, through rain or shine, persecution, hunger and thirst, even when considered the rubbish of the world. Yes, that was the persistence of Paul to fulfill his determined purposes. In my mind, he stands as one of the greatest missionaries of all times.

We see a determined purpose in the life of Moses while leading the nation of Israel to the Promise Land. He often stood on the gap for his people, in times when God wanted to destroy the whole nation. His determined purpose was to see the glory of God being displayed in favor of Israel. When interceding for Israel, he said, Oh these people have sinned a great sin and have made themselves gods of gold! Yet now, if You will forgive their sin- and if not, blot me, I pray You, out of Your book which You have written! For the sake of his people he was willing to have his name blotted out of God's book! He was willing to take the punishment. Moses' determined purpose was to see Israel enter the Promised Land.

All the heroes and heroines of the faith of long time ago stood firmly in their determined purpose to be faithful to God unto death. Their courage and persistence are well described in Hebrews eleven, "They were men and women of whom the world was not worthy- roaming over the desolate places and the mountains and in caves and caverns and holes of the earth", and holding unto their determined purpose they become martyrs of the faith, not looking back to the things the world offered them. Many more heroes and heroines of our time and before us, have lost their lives, but never lost their determined purpose to be faith to God unto death.

Abraham's determined purpose was to believe in God's promises, even when told to sacrifice his son- his only son. Nothing in the frame of time destroyed his faith and belief that God, even in his son's death, would bring him back to life to fulfill his promise to him. In his determined purpose he showed obedience and was willingness to sacrifice his son, as we read in Hebrew 11:19, For he reasoned that God was able to raise [him] up even from among the dead. Indeed in the sense that Isaac was figuratively dead, he did receive him back from the dead.

We see in the life of Ruth a determined purpose of following her mother-in-law to a country foreign to her. She was so determined in her purpose that nothing was more important to her. To fulfill this determined purpose she left behind her own family, gods,

culture, and language. Nothing stopped her from pressing in the direction of her utmost purpose. God looked at Ruth with favor and blessed her to be the great-grandmother of King David, the ancestor of Christ.

The determined purpose of every Christian should be to love, obey and serve God.

**THINK ABOUT IT!**