

The Matthew 11:12 Testimony

Reflection: 2 Corinthians 10:3-4, Ephesians 6:10-18

Some years back, I had a big challenge. I wept and wept, but my tears brought me nothing. The Holy Spirit then gave me a verse in my sleep one night to let me know that I was not serious at all about getting the matter resolved. He didn't quote the text - He just simply said "*Matthew 11:12*". I was not good at memorising Bible verses at the time, so I had to dash to my Bible when I woke up. "*I see,*" I said in my mind, when I read the verse. Then I did the needful. I got my victory soon after, and have continually lived a victorious life in Christ ever since.

We give different interpretations to the text in Matthew 11:12, but the Holy Spirit gives understanding. It means: **Pressing on to Finish Your Race:** Pressing on, to resist temptation, to fulfil God's purpose for your life; and to obtain your blessings (spiritual and temporal), as though you would grab them violently. In other words: Doing all it takes, with fervent prayers, praise, and worship; a strong sense of commitment to what God has assigned to you to do for Him (if He has); and above all, taking steps to deepen your relationship with Him and striving to live a holy life at all costs. Satan isn't playing, beloved (1 Peter 5:8). He violently does his three-fold business (John 10:10), and so shall we, to do ours - which is, to resist Him (James 4:7). Never let your guard down!

Speaking about Prayers: The prayer of a righteous person is indeed powerful (James 5:16, Philippians 4:6). We are exhorted to pray without ceasing - this is to our own advantage, and for the fact that God loves to hear from us (1 Thessalonians 5:17, Proverbs 15:8). You need to pray without ceasing if you want to survive the viciously wicked, dangerous, and perverted world that we now live in, beloved.

Praying without ceasing is often misinterpreted as, repeating the same request we have made to God over and over, saying lengthy prayers, or reciting prayer lines. Wrong (see Matthew 6:7-8)! You want to speak with your Heavenly Father at any time of the day and anywhere, give thanks to Him, seek His counsel, petition Him, intercede for others and the Body of Christ, and more. Remember to give Him Praise, as well. Then testify to what He is doing in your life, as things will certainly begin to take a new turn.

Shalom!

Deborah O Daniel (Toyin)