

Unrelenting
(Acts 5:17-42)

In the face of painful opposition we can have unrelenting hope.

*One ship drives east and another drives west,
With the selfsame winds that blow.
Tis the set of the sails,
And not the gales,
Which tells us the way to go.*

*Like the winds of the seas are the ways of fate,
As we voyage along through the life:
Tis the set of a soul,
That decides its goal,
And not the calm or the strife.*

Ella Wheeler Wilcox

- 1. Selfishness can be lethal. (Acts 5:17-20)**
 - a. Selfish jealousy, if allowed, can take root and be devastating.
 - b. Filling with jealousy can lead to filling with rage. (Prov. 6:34, Acts 5:33)
- 2. God is unrelenting and unstoppable. (Acts 5:21-39)**
 - a. "...if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them." (Acts 5:39)
 - b. The "hound of heaven" is persistent. (Jeremiah 23:24)
- 3. With God's strength we can be unrelenting. (Acts 5:40-42)**
 - a. We need to be careful not to confuse faithfulness with success.
 - b. The opposition they faced could have been a source of discouragement, but through God's power it had the opposite effect.
 - c. We are blessed when we suffer for Christ. (Luke 6:22, 21:12)

Some good self-check questions are:

1. Am I allowing the challenges of life to strengthen my resolve to obey the Lord, or am I giving myself an excuse to drift away from Him? (Psalm 1)

I think the reason we sometimes have the false sense that God is so far away is because that is where we have put Him. We have kept Him at a distance, and then when we are in need and call on Him in prayer, we wonder where He is. He is exactly where we left him.

Ravi Zacharias

2. Am I allowing an emotion to take root in my life in such a way that it is leading to destruction of myself or of others?
3. Am I refusing to do what I know He wants?
4. Am I refusing to share my faith because of fear of rejection or any other reason?

Attempt something so great for God it is doomed to failure unless He be in it! - John Haggai.