

OH, YES, YOU CAN! I KNOW YOU CAN. I AM SURE YOU CAN!

Rev. Stephen Llewellyn

It was some time ago, in fact not a very long time but I can remember quite vividly, as a young aspiring soccer player the demands of the coach as he pushed his charges to peak physical fitness before the season began.

He would scream at us from the sidelines, "Oh, yes, you can; no, no, don't let me down now. One more time, keep going, let us keep going. Get up, you can make it. Yes you can; no, no excuses you can make it. You need to push yourself a little harder; you will make it. There is no room for failure. You cannot play unless you are on your feet. Let's go, I will run this one with you."

The last of these commands was the one that changed the atmosphere to a feat of success. "We will run the 'last lap' (400 m) together" and then the challenge began.

It is the price that you pay to become a successful athlete. It is this attitude that we as Christians and ministers of the Good News of the gospel of Jesus Christ must have to be successful.

The Apostle Paul, writing to Timothy, (II Timothy 1:13-14) "*Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou has heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto thee by the Holy Ghost who dwelleth in us.*"

"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ

No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." 2 Timothy 2:1-4

Fellow Christians and ministers, let us not despair or think that this journey is too tough and that this generation doesn't want to give much time to the Gospel of Jesus Christ which is GOOD NEWS to this world. It is the only hope. We must engage in battle as we seek new

avenues to share the good news with our young people.

It is important that our lives are circumspect before them, so that they have a model as they follow Christ. We must also seek out their interest and begin to carve out ways to blend their interest into ministry tools so that they can see that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is relevant today as it has been throughout the centuries.

Even though times are tough, our **Lord Jesus Christ** has already **prayed for us and all believers.**

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

I in them and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and thou hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou has given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I hath known thee, and these hath known that thou hast sent me.

And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them." – John 17:20-26

Look forward next month for the answer to the question that many are asking: "*What is the right church that I should attend, and why others are wrong.*"