

HOLD THE ROPE!



DAN INGRAM

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BY

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daningram.org

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INTRODUCTION

Since the early 90's, part of my Home Mission Ministry has been to go to Adult and Teen Challenges and various other recovery centers for men and women. I throw out life preservers to them - nuggets of truth that they can easily grasp and hold onto. Over the years I have discerned and learned that the only way to lose is to quit. It is important to walk in faith with what you have learned.

So this book is about that revelation - to see men and women walk in and keep their victory, and enter into the destiny and freedom that God created for them. I want to see men and women have faith and **“HOLD THE ROPE”** until God blesses and comes through.

This is a message that God keeps refining in my heart. And when I share it I see men and women who are like the fisherman who the Lord told to launch out into the deep. As they followed the Lord, they hit the storm with wind and waves, and felt they were going under. But then they realized that they can **HOLD ONTO THE ROPE** by faith and God will have their back. He will come through, and enable them to keep on the journey! They don't have to be fearful because they are not alone.

I still remember the first time I preached this message. It was 2007 and I was ministering at Teen Challenge in Mulga, AL. It turned out to be an incredible time of blessing because it brought encouragement to the women there. At the end of the message I prayed for them and gave them a piece of rope to remind them that as they go through the Program and go through life, to always **HOLD THE ROPE** until the blessing comes.

There was a lady there that first night named Lynn Lizana, who was in the Program. She graduated after her year in the Program there and lived for the Lord for years afterward. She was full of life and passion for the Lord and was a blessing to many until her recent passing. She kept encouraging me to preach this message every year, and told me she actually slept with her rope during her time in the Program and for years afterwards until her passing.

What has been incredible over the years, when I have said, "I'm going to preach the **HOLD THE ROPE** sermon tonight while at the Teen Challenge Lady's Center," to my surprise one of the students will say, "I've got a piece of rope! So and So gave it to me, and So and So gave it to them." This has happened several times and it's really been amazing. The Lord has used this message in its various forms to encourage and equip the hearers to "**HOLD THE ROPE!**"

The Lord says,

“Hold on. . . I’m coming! HOLD THE ROPE!”

Now it happened, on a certain day, that He got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, “Let us cross over to the other side of the lake.” And they launched out. (Luke 8: 22 NKJV)

The disciples launched out at Jesus' word. “Let us cross over to the other side.” And the Lord is saying to you, **“Let us crossover. It is time to launch out into the blessing and destiny the Lord has for us!”**

And they launched out. But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” (Luke 8:22b-8:24 NKJV)

Jesus knew there would be a storm and the the boat would be in jeopardy. And the Lord knows that there will be storms in your life as you follow Him. Nothing takes the Lord by surprise.

Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm. But He said to them, “Where is your faith?” And they

*were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another,
“Who can this be? For He commands even the winds
and water, and they obey Him!” (Luke 8:25 NKJV)*

One of my mentors was Pastor John Loper, Senior Pastor of Garywood Assembly. Many times I heard him say, “**God will pull you through - if you can stand the pull!**”

So the question is . . . **How do you HOLD THE ROPE?**

CHAPTER ONE

ABIDING AND REMAINING

Rick Joiner once said, “Life is like a rickety roller coaster ride. The only reason we get through is that the Lord is holding it and us together.”

As you walk through your life, your relationship with the Lord requires faith and trust. Wherever you may find yourself or whatever storm you may be facing, know that the Lord will show up and He will come through for you.

One of the biggest things you will need to overcome is fear as you learn to walk in an abiding relationship with the Lord.

Scripture has much to say about fear. Let’s look at the following which will encourage you:

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
(Isaiah 41:10 NIV)

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.
(2 Timothy 1:7 NIV)

Even King David himself had fears in his life and he testified that he sought the Lord and the Lord delivered him from all his fears.

I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. (Ps 34:4 NIV)

David was delivered him from all his fears! Fear is the opposite of faith. Many are impacted by fear of the unknown, fear of failure, fear of lack, fear of the future, even fear of being blessed and prosperous!

But the Lord says. . .

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41:10 NIV)

But now, this is what the Lord says— he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; (ISAIAH 43:1B-3A NIV)

God's word is true and he never fails!

Jesus had performed the miracle of feeding the 5000. He sent the people away and He 'made', that is, 'He invited' or 'strongly urged' the disciples to get into the boat to **cross over** to the other side. Then Jesus went up on the mountain to pray by Himself.

And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. (Matthew 14:23-24 NKJV)

It was after 3 o'clock in the morning and Mathew says that Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. The disciples thought they were seeing a ghost and they cried out in fear! But look what Jesus says and does:

But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." (Matthew 14;27-29 NKJV)

Peter stepped out on Jesus' word and it enabled Peter to supernaturally walk on the water. When the Lord gives you a step of obedience or encourages you to take a step of faith it is like you are walking on the water. Keep your eyes focused on the Lord as you are walking and keep abiding in Him.

And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. (Matthew 14:29-32 NKJV)

And the disciples' reaction?

Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." (Matthew 14:33 NKJV)

At times you may start to get afraid when you take your eyes off Jesus and start to think about the storms and troubles of life. Maybe you want to quit, maybe leave or maybe throw in the towel. It seems like you are about to go under. **But HOLD THE ROPE!** Realize that Jesus is there

with you and understands you. Just like he pulled Peter up, He will pull you up as well. **He is the one who can rebuke the winds and still the storm roundabout you until there comes a peace and a calm.** That is why it is so important that you have an abiding relationship with Jesus, knowing Him as Lord and Savior.

Regardless of the storms you face, negative reports you have received, and bad circumstances that you might find yourself, keep abiding in Him. For the Lord is saying to you.

..

*If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.
(John 15:7 NKJV)*

The Amplified Bible translates this as

'my words abide and remain in you.'

An abiding relationship means to abide and remain in Him - His presence, in prayer, in faith, in praise, in worship and in His word.

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.

*But Martha was distracted with much serving,
and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not
care that my sister has left me to serve alone?
Therefore tell her to help me."
And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha,
Martha, you are worried and troubled about many
things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen
that good part, which will not be taken away from her."
(Luke 10:38-42 NKJV)*

Mary chose the best part. Sitting at Jesus feet and abiding
in his presence and in His word.

*He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
(Ps 91:1 NKJV)*

As you **HOLD THE ROPE**, understand you are abiding
under the shelter of the Presence of the Almighty,
El Shaddai - the God who is more than enough who cannot
fail!

CHAPTER TWO

CLOSE ACCESS

*Nor give place (or opportunity) to the devil.
(Ephesians 4:27 NKJV)*

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,
(Hebrews 12:1 NIV)*

As you walk with Jesus, you will become aware of insecurities, fearful and worrisome thoughts, and anxieties that play havoc with your mind, will and emotions, realizing you opened doors to allow the enemy to come in to steal, kill and destroy and hinder your relationship - not only with God, but with those around you. You must learn to challenge these mindsets by stating, "I'm not going to live this way anymore!" and close the doors to the areas that give the world, the flesh, and the devil an opportunity.

The Apostle Paul taught that a Christian has authority over these negative thoughts. Jesus gave believers the power to pull these thoughts down and cast the enemy out and give him no place.

Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:5 NKJV)

It is the cares of this world, deceitfulness of wealth and the desire for other things which come in and choke the word, smother your spirit, and steal your faith. It is important to **close access to those negative thoughts and be confident that the Lord is with you, and will help you gain the victory in your walk with him.**

Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: "For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, my soul has no pleasure in him." But we are not of those who drawback to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul. (Hebrews 10:35-39 NKJV)

The writer to the Hebrews says not to throw away your confidence for it will be richly rewarded. Be patient so that after you have done the will of God, you will receive the reward. This is where you have to **HOLD THE ROPE!** Hang on. Hang in there.

At the perfect time, God will show up!

CHAPTER THREE

PURSUE GOD!

It is important to pursue God knowing that God will show up! The word pursue means: to follow and try to catch or capture (someone or something) for usually a long distance or time. This is true with your walk with the Lord. Pursuing Him for the distance, over a long period of time!

*You can never please God without faith, without depending on him. Anyone who wants to come to God must believe that there is a God and that he rewards those who sincerely look for him.
(Hebrews 11:6 TLB)*

Did you know God rewards those who sincerely pursue Him?

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (Matthew 6:33 NKJV)

This is a kingdom principle. When I live my life according to kingdom principles, they bring forth kingdom results! It is like this:

- *When I do what I can do, the result is I get what I can do.*

The results are based on my efforts, talents, and striving.

- *But when I do what God says - that is living according to God's guidelines and principles.*

The results are based on what God can do!

When I abide, that is, remain in Him and His Word, when I close access to

~~~the cares of this world,

~~~the negative thoughts that are a part of all of us,

~~~the temptation from the enemy,

choosing to pursue Him sincerely, from the heart, then Ephesians 3:20 will come alive in your life.

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,*

*(Ephesians 3:20 NIV)*

So **"HOLD THE ROPE!"** God will do exceedingly, abundantly above all you can ask or think!

*Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; **Let him return to***

***the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.***  
*(Isaiah 55:6-7 NIV)*

Stay in high speed pursuit, chasing after God starting today. Always go with the flow of God and **HOLD THE ROPE** - never letting go!

***HOLD THE ROPE!***

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **FORGETTING WHAT IS BEHIND!**

*Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, (Philippians 3:13 NIV)*

There is one thing I do or that I have learned in my years of walking with God. I forget those things - failures, sins, troubles, hurts, pain - which are behind. I strain, that is, press into what is ahead!

I wrote a rap song years ago called "The One Thang." Little did I know that this song would be an anthem over the years for the people in the services. I have gone to Adult and Teen Challenges, Hope for Women, and other treatment centers and other nations. They love the sound and the words of the song, which tells them to forget what is behind and move on to what is ahead. There is a "One Thang" dance and an echo that the ladies started doing and I put it in the song when I recorded it. Some years back the Lord told me to give a "One Thang" tee shirt to all the graduates of the programs. It has been a life preserver over the years for many and carried them through this season in their lives.

There are two things you must know so that if you fall short you won't faint or quit. That is . . .

*If we confess our sins, **he** is faithful and just and **will forgive us our sins** and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9 NIV)*

*Therefore, **there is now no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus, (Romans 8:1 NIV)*

Know that it is the Holy Spirit who convicts you and the enemy who condemns you. The Lord will not condemn you but will instruct you in the way you should walk and live according to His grace and mercy. I cannot tell you the times that I have missed the Lord, and the Lord moved upon me with His loving grace and gave me a message, new song, or a confirmation of His great love for me.

When the devil attempts to remind you of your past, instead, remind him of his future and who you are in Christ. So forget what's behind and press on to the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Keep doing the "One Thang". It is more than a song, it is more than a dance, it is more than a teeshirt. It is a lifestyle.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### BEING DILIGENT AND EARNEST

*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (Hebrews 11:6 NIV)*

*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:33 NIV)*

*Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. (1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-25 NIV)*

Serious and successful football teams go into strict training long before the first game. They are earnest and diligent in their training so that they can be a champion. Think about it. They have to learn the playbook. They must exercise consistently, lift weights to get stronger, and be extremely focused. The players must learn to not only put this all

together for their own best personal performance (being earnest and diligent,) but learn how to listen (having ears to hear) to their coaches and work together as a team to be winners! Winners of a crown that will not last. How much more should you be earnest and diligent in learning the playbook, being in shape spiritually, and learning to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit as He leads us together to be victorious and gain a crown that will last forever!

**When you HOLD THE ROPE and go with the flow of God, His blessings come, His glory comes, deliverance comes, families are restored, and His goodness and mercy come! All this happens as you are being diligent and earnest, putting Him first, seeking His kingdom, and HOLDING THE ROPE - never letting go!**

## CHAPTER SIX

### GET STRONG IN THE WORD

*My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word. (Psalms 119:24 NIV)*

*Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity (patterns of sin) have dominion over me. (Psalm 119:133 NKJV)*

**Jesus Himself when tempted by Satan, rebuked and defeated him with the power of the Word.**

*Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”*

*But He answered and said, “**It is written**, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”*

*Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you, and, ‘In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus said to him, “**It is written again**, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’”*

*Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high*

*mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! **For it is written**, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him. (Matt 4:3-11 NKJV)*

**Jesus held onto the rope by using, speaking and standing on the Word!** As you **HOLD ON TO THE ROPE**, standing on and speaking the Word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord, the Holy Spirit will come and bear witness, encouraging your heart, and strengthening you for what is ahead as well.

*For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.  
(Hebrews 4:12 NIV)*

Jesus said,

*The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. (John 6:63b KJV)*

If you **HOLD THE ROPE**, that is, hold onto the word of God, it will produce results in your life and accomplish that which God desires.



*As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:10-11 NIV)*

The Word of God will not return void. And as the Lord held the rope, the devil was defeated and left. He was submitting to God through the Word, resisting the devil and he has to flee!

*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7 NIV)*

When you are strong in the word you can . . .

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (James 1:2-4 NIV)*

So be strong in the Word, pray the Word, confess the Word,  
and . . .

*Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that  
by it you may grow up in your salvation,  
(1 Peter 2:2 NKJV)*

**HOLD THE ROPE!**

## CHAPTER SEVEN

### BUILD YOURSELVES UP!

*But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, (Jude 20 NIV)*

*Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:18-20 NIV)*

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. (Ephesians 6:18 NIV)*

#### **Pray in the Spirit.**

You used to go to any lengths to fulfill the desires of your flesh and what you wanted. Now, you have to turn those energies around. You need to be filled and overflowing with the Spirit and allow Him to take you to another level of life and empowerment.

*Very well then, with foreign lips and strange tongues  
God will speak to this people, To whom He said,  
“This is the rest with which You may cause the weary  
to rest,” And, “This is the refreshing”; Yet they would  
not hear. (Isaiah 28:11-12 NIV)*

## **The Holy Spirit brings rest and refreshing if you will only hear and receive the gift that God offers!**

Remember Jesus told the disciples not to leave Jerusalem,  
but to wait and receive the gift the Father had promised.

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes  
on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,  
and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the  
earth.” (Acts 1:8 NIV)*

## **The Holy Spirit brings power!**

*Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves,  
but the one who prophesies edifies the church.  
(1 Corinthians 14:4)*

**Praying in the Holy Spirit edifies you (builds you up)  
individually and makes you strong! The Spirit will  
enable you to rise higher and higher and get stronger  
and stronger!**

## So how do I receive this gift that the Father promised?

**You simply ask, believe, and receive.**

*If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven **give good gifts** to those who ask Him! (Matthew 7:11 NIV)*

*If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven **give the Holy Spirit** to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:13 NIV)*

As they waited on the Lord on the day of Pentecost look  
WHAT SCRIPTURE SAYS . . .

***All of them** were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.  
(ACTS 2:4 NIV)*

As you are filled with the Holy Spirit and He comes upon you, step out and pray the utterance that the Lord gives you, and rivers of living water will flow from within you. Build yourself up always, praying in the Holy Spirit.

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.  
(Ephesians 6:18 NIV)*

**As you stand on the Word of God and pray in the Holy Spirit, you are HOLDING ON TO THE ROPE. You are entwining your life with the Lord's. It is a three-cord strand that cannot be broken!**

**HOLD THE ROPE! PRAYING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT!**

## CHAPTER EIGHT

### RUN TO THE CITY OF REFUGE!

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. (Psalm 46:1 NIV)*

*The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe. (Proverbs 18:10 NKJV)*

In the Old Testament there were six Cities of Refuge that a person could run to if he accidentally killed someone. The cities would protect him from the avenger! When you run to the place of refuge, you are protected and safe. The House of God is a safe haven to keep us all far from the avenger who seeks to kill, steal, and destroy.

*The psalmist said,*

*“I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord.” (Psalm 122:1 KJV)*

Look what the Lord told Moses and the Israelites:

*Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you. (Exodus 20:24 NIV)*

The blessing of the Lord rests upon my wife, Sherry, and me. One of the reasons is the fact that we have been faithful in and to the local church; that is, serving and being a part of the local fellowship. It has protected us, blessed us, and helped us to be accountable. As a result, we have received the corporate anointing which brings a refreshing and encouragement that only comes from being in the house and presence of the Lord.

When you fall short, you can run to His house and find refuge.

I can't tell you the number of times that I have blown it - times I had pressures, trials, and discouragements. I could have stayed away, quit, or run in the other direction, but I crawled into the house of the Lord and He met me, graced me, and blessed me.

Steve Hill of the Brownsville Revival said during a service one night, "My friends, most of the nights we crawl in here." No matter the circumstances of the day, or how tired they were, God would strengthen them each night, refresh them, and empower them for the ministry that evening.

What I have seen over the years is that those who fall out of relationship with God, backslide. They have either fallen out of fellowship with the local church, or they have never gotten



planted in the local church. For it is in the local church that God prepares a table for you.

*Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: (Psalm 23:5 KJV)*

**The house and the presence of the Lord is a place of blessing and refuge.**

*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching. (Hebrews 10:25 NKJV)*

*As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend. (Proverbs 27:17 NKJV)*

**So get planted in a church family and small group and it will help you to HOLD THE ROPE, and you will be blessed and become a blessing.**

# CHAPTER NINE

## OBEY

As you keep walking with the Lord in His plans and purpose for your life, just keep holding on and obeying because

*Obedience is far better than sacrifice. He is much more interested in your listening to him than in your offering the fat of rams to him. (1 Samuel 15:22 TLB)*

*If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. (John 15:10 NIV)*

**If you keep obeying, even when you feel nothing, you are HOLDING ONTO THE ROPE.**

*For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. (1 Chronicles 16:9a NIV)*

A lot of times, you don't see God working and have to keep following him with steps of obedience. An incredible witness to God working even when she didn't see it is the story of the Shunammite woman.

Elisha gave her a prophetic word to obey and she had to step out on faith. She had to **HOLD ONTO THE ROPE OF FAITH.**

*Now Elisha had said to the woman whose son he had restored to life, "Go away with your family and stay for a while wherever you can, because the Lord has decreed a famine in the land that will last seven years."*

*The woman proceeded to do as the man of God said. She and her family went away and stayed in the land of the Philistines for seven years. At the end of the seven years she came back from the land of the Philistines and went to appeal to the king for her house and land. The king was talking to Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, and had said, "Tell me about all the great things Elisha has done."*

*Just as Gehazi was telling the king how Elisha had restored the dead to life, the woman whose son Elisha had brought back to life came to appeal to the king for her house and land. Gehazi said, "This is the woman, my lord the king, and this is her son whom Elisha restored to life."*

*The king asked the woman about it, and she told him. Then he assigned an official to her case and said to him, "Give back everything that belonged to her,*

*including all the income from her land from the day she left the country until now.” (2 Kings 8:1-6 NIV)*

The Shunammite woman obeyed Elijah. And she ended up being in the right place at the right time. **You will end up being in the right place at the right time when you obey as well.**

*Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord. (Psalm 27:14 NIV)*

**At just the right time Jesus came, born of a virgin.**

**At just the right time Jesus died for the ungodly.**

**He may not come when you want or how you want Him, but he is always on time and He will come!**

**Keep walking in obedience and wait for the Lord to bring the breakthrough and the blessing.**

**HOLD THE ROPE!**

## CHAPTER TEN

### SET MY FACE LIKE FLINT!

*Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. (Isaiah 50:7 NIV)*

*Because the Lord God helps me, I will not be dismayed; therefore, I have set my face like flint to do his will, and I know that I will triumph.  
(Isaiah 50:7 TLB)*

Flint is hard and strong! When you strike flint (ex. Flint lighters) you create a spark and ignite a flame! When you set your face like flint, you're like a mountain that cannot be moved!

*As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people both now and forevermore.  
(Psalms 125:2 NIV)*

When you set your face like flint, you are strong, steadfast, and immovable - allowing nothing to move you - and always giving yourself to the work of the Lord.

*Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm.  
Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to*

*the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*

*( 1 Corinthians 15:58 NIV)*

You have a bulldog, tenacious faith, like lockjaw - you grab ahold of it, and don't let go! You become earnest and diligent, knowing God will reward. God will show up! If you **HOLD THE ROPE**. It shows faith in God. You are using your faith!

*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (Hebrews 11:6 NIV)*

*We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. (Hebrews 6:12 NIV)*

It takes **holding on with faith and patience** to inherit the promises. You have to set your face like flint and be persistent.

Luke 18 describes a widow who was persistent and wouldn't let go or take "no" for an answer.

*Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither*

*feared God nor cared what people thought. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"*

*And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, **He will see that they get justice, and quickly.** However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"*

Sometimes it doesn't look good. Sometimes it doesn't feel good. But just keep **HOLDING THE ROPE. . .**

**Knowing that God will help!**

**Knowing that He is able!**

**Knowing that You will not be shamed!**

**Knowing that you will triumph!**

**Knowing that He will show up. . .**

**IF YOU HOLD THE ROPE!**

**So . . .**

**Don't get weary!**  
**Don't quit!**  
**Don't give up and let go!**

In Paul's teaching to the Galatians he said

*Let us not become weary in doing good, **for at the proper time** we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:9 NIV)*

Realize that trials are a part of life. My grandmother would always say, "You won't go to heaven on a bed of roses, but God will see you through every trial."

*Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all. (Psalm 34:19 KJV)*

So the Lord comes and says "Let us go over to the other side. Let's cross over from death to life; darkness to light; poverty to prosperity; from failure to success; from defeat to victory!"

As you set your face like flint, **HOLDING ONTO THE ROPE OF GOD'S GRACE AND GOODNESS**, You can have confidence in Him knowing that He will still the storms of life and take you safely to the other side.

***So leave the past behind and launch out on the Lord and His word.***

**HOLD THE ROPE!**



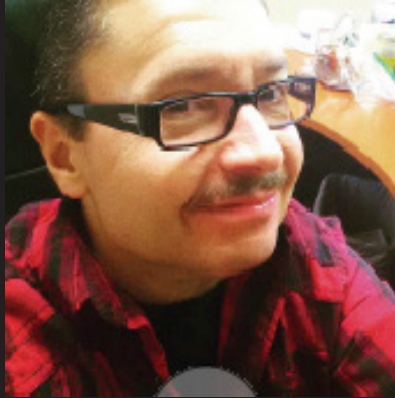
**Lord,**

**I come to you with a sincere heart and I thank you for the plans you have for me. I ask that grace and mercy would follow me all the days of my life. Give me strength to hold the rope and be all that you have called me to be.**

**In Jesus name, Amen.**

**HOLD THE ROPE!**

# *About the Author...*



## **DAN INGRAM**

- Ordained A.G. Minister.
- Served at Warrior A.G. for 13 years during the “Great Outpouring” and Revival.
- Presently serving at Restoration Christian Fellowship.
- Served at Garywood Assembly for 10 years.
- Served on the Board of Alabama Prison Ministries.
- 30 years in Ministry.

Contact Information:  
daningram.org      dannyingram@att.net