



THE HONOR OF EFFORT

 Colossians 3:23, “*Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.*”

Life was never designed to be a contest of perfection, but a classroom of perseverance. God does not ask that we be the best, only that we give our best. The race of faith is not won by comparison but by consistency. The true test is not whether I have outdone another, but whether I have grown truer, humbler, and more faithful than I was yesterday.

The worthiness of the challenge is part of the grace of the journey. A strong opponent, whether in sport, trial, or temptation, calls forth what is noble within us. Without resistance, strength cannot be proven; without struggle, virtue cannot mature. Even defeat can become

a victory when it refines the heart. The value lies not in the applause of men, but in the integrity of the attempt.

God watches not for triumphs but for trust. When our striving is pure and our motives honorable, we have already succeeded in His eyes. For what the world calls “winning,” heaven often calls “becoming.”

So when you face those stronger or faster, do not despair. Their excellence gives you the chance to rise higher, to learn endurance, to be shaped by humility. In God’s kingdom, growth counts for more than glory, and faithfulness weighs heavier than fame.

Reflection:

Am I striving to be the best, or to give my best unto God?

Do I measure victory by the applause of men, or by the quiet approval of my Master?