



## **DEVOTIONAL FOR SINGLES**

### **Hang In There**

*“But the fruit of the Spirit...patience.”*  
Galatians 5:22

**You’ve probably heard the expression “Hang in there!” A man known by the name Henry Dempsey did just that...literally! He was piloting a committed flight between two small towns on the East coast when he heard a strange noise coming from the back of the plane.** He relinquished the controls of the plane to his co-pilot and went to the back to check out the noise. Henry was surprised to find that the rear door had not been secured prior to takeoff. Just as he noticed this, the plane hit some turbulence and slammed Henry against the door. It flew open, sucking Henry out over the cold ocean thousands of feet below.

**The copilot noticed two things: the open-door warning light and the fact Henry had disappeared!** He realized what must have happened so he radioed for a helicopter search over that section of the ocean.

**After the plane landed, Henry was found all right. But not where they thought he would be. As Henry was being sucked out the door, he grabbed the outside ladder and hung on for dear life...his own. He was able to hang on despite the plane’s descent of several thousand feet at 200 miles per hour.** And during the landing he had a bird’s-eye view of the runway because he kept his head raised just 12 inches away from the ground.

One last thing about Henry...**they had to pry his fingers away from the ladder. This man really “hung in there”!** Sometimes it’s **difficult to hang in there—especially when we hit the turbulence in our own lives.** We’d rather bail out instead of working it out. We’re so selective (some call it picky) when it comes to looking for a life partner that at the first upset we say, “I’m out of here” rather than staying and working it out.

**When there’s difficulty at work, we head for the want ads.** When our roommates don’t take care of their responsibilities, we’re ready to spring the eviction notices.

**Sure, life is unfair. Some people are difficult to get along with. But hanging in there and resolving may be a better solution than bailing out.** God’s Word talks to us time and time again about patience, endurance and sticking it out! Consider the following scriptures: **He who is slow to anger has a great understanding, but he who is quick-tempered exalts folly (Prov. 14:29).**

**Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who carries out wicked schemes (Ps. 37:7).**

**Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross despising the shame, and has set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart (Heb. 12:1-3).**

**Patience literally means “long suffering” or to be able to continue to suffer from life’s unfairness and not throw in the towel. In other words, “Hang in there!”**

You say that you can’t? It’s too difficult? You’re right. That’s why it is one of the fruits of the Spirit. It takes God’s power to help you hang in there. You are running a lifelong race, but fortunately you are not on your own. He is with you.

**When you’re struggling, turn back to the psalmist:**

**I waited patiently for the Lord: and He inclined to me and heard my cry (Psalm 40:1).**

### **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION**

*Are you facing a turbulent circumstance today? If so, are you thinking about bailing out? Do you really believe this is God’s solution to your problem? Why not ask God to bring you in for a safe landing? AMEN.*

*--Dr. H. Norman Wright, Single Purpose*