

A PARABLE FOR REFLECTION

Be obedient. Push. Trust His wisdom.

The Parable of the *Stone*

A man lived alone in a small cottage at the edge of the wilderness. One night his room was filled with light, and the Lord stood before him and said, *“I have a work for you to do.”*

The Lord led him outside and showed him a great stone resting before his door, vast and immovable. *“Set your shoulder against this stone,”* He said, *“and push with all your strength.”* The man bowed his head and answered, *“As you have spoken, so I will do.”*

So he rose early, while it was still dark, and labored against the stone until the sun went down. He did this day after day, and year after year. He set his shoulder against the cold face of the stone and pressed with everything in him. Yet the stone did not move, not to the right or to the left. Every evening he returned to his cottage worn and weary, his heart heavy within him, for it seemed that his labor had been in vain.

Then an enemy came who hated the man, and he scattered thoughts in his heart like a sower scattering weeds: *You have labored so long, and the stone has not stirred. Why waste your days? You will never move it. Surely you have failed.* And the man was deeply discouraged. He

said to himself, *“I will not labor with all my strength anymore. I will give only what is needed, and that will be enough.”*

But before he turned away, the man decided to carry his trouble to the Lord. He prayed, *“Lord, for many years I have served you. With all my strength I have pressed against the stone, just as you commanded. Yet it has not moved, not even the width of a hair. Where have I failed? Why am I so cast down?”*

And the Lord answered him gently. *“My son, when I called you, I asked you to push against the stone with all your strength. This you have done. But I never told you to move it. Your task was to push.”*

Look now at yourself. Your arms, once weak, have grown strong. Your back is mighty, and your hands are hardened by long labor. Through striving against the stone you have become far greater than you were, though the stone still rests where it stood. You thought your labor was lost, but your labor was never for the stone. It was for you.

Your calling was to be obedient, to push, and to trust in my wisdom. This you have done, and done well. Now stand aside, my son.”

“I will move the stone.”