

God wants to develop in us those characteristics that He desires for us to have.

And secondly God keeps us here because He has work for us to do. Whether we be ministers, whether we be evangelists, or missionaries, whether we be laymen testifying to Christ teaching S.S. classes and so on, if we are Christians God has purposes for our lives and He sees the end from the beginning and He knows the purposes.

So we must resist the devil. We must stand against him in the power of Christ. We are ordered to do that and we must keep that in mind and be watching for the wiles of the devil that we need to resist. Yet when we fail, though we submit to God, though we do our best to follow Him, when we fail we must recognize that God has a purpose in it all for His good and for the carrying out of His plan. Let us pray:

Oh God our Father, we thank you that you reveal much truth to us in your Word. But Oh there is much truth you have not revealed. We don't know or understand why you permit the devil to continue. But your Scripture tells us he is a real force and we are to resist him, not in our own strength, but in the power of God.

Oh our God we do not understand it fully, but we desire to follow your plan and purpose. Help us, we pray, to understand the wiles of the devil. Not to allow him to push us over the brink in one direction; equally not to allow him to push us off in the opposite direction which may be just as contrary to your will. Help us to keep our eyes on our Lord Jesus Christ, and to be effective instruments in the carrying out of His purposes, and help us to realize that you have purposes for the development of each of us that go on as long as we are in this world, and help us to fit into those purposes and to develop in our character and in our attitude as you desire us to be. We ask in Jesus' Name. Amen.