

# The Longest Day

The longest day of the year, the summer solstice, happened just a few days ago. Many labored from before daylight till well after dark. Some accomplished little.

As Christians, we must realize that there is time to accomplish all that God has in mind for us. In a very real sense, we are at war, with the devil on the other side and us on this side.

Every day he is traveling the earth, "like a roaring lion seeking to devour" the Bible says. Every single second of every minute he is trying to bring down the kingdom of heaven.

God is the supreme being, our commander and chief. He gives us twenty four hours a day and all the resources to plan and carry out the work of salvation and hope.

There is a World War II movie called The Longest Day, about D-Day the invasion of Europe to free them from the enemy. I am struck by the conversations which took place that day. All quotes are from the movie, "The Longest Day."

Sometimes we get to thinking that we are in the wrong place, or that nothing is an option. We must use every opportunity to move forward to win the war. God's people can spend generations talking, and worrying about the details, or we can move forward.

**"Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt Jr.:** As best I can figure it, we're on the wrong beach. The control boat must have been confused by the smoke from the naval bombardment. They landed us about a mile and a quarter south of where we were supposed to land. We should be up there.

**Col. Caffey:** I agree with you, but what are we gonna do now? Our reinforcements and heavy equipment will be approaching in a very few minutes. What happens if they land at the right beach?

**Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt Jr.:** The reinforcements will have to follow us wherever we are. We're starting the war from right here. Head inland. We're going inland."

Yes, we are starting the war from right here. Wherever the boats or planes have put us, wherever God has put us, we must begin from this moment to move forward with all possible dispatch.

If we stand still, we are going backwards, and the enemy has an advantage. If we make brave and world-changing decisions, others will follow. If we say that God is God, and live that way, others will believe. If we start where we are, as the downtown church or the country church or the

historic church or the brand new church, there is everything to gain and nothing to lose.

Spinning wheels in place is not the way God wants us to go.

We must also remember that the hours of the day are important, and new beginnings can happen at any time. Important decisions and actions can happen which form and shape history, and which people talk and marvel about for generations to come.

**"Destroyer Commander:** You remember it. Remember every bit of it, 'cause we are on the eve of a day that people are going to talk about long after we are dead and gone."

We are on the eve of great things happening in the faith. The enemy thinks he has the upper hand. There is so much sin being accepted as good. There are many forces trying to destroy the church in this country and across the world.

But must remember every moment, all the battles and victories, all the love and forgiveness, all the lives changed and people saved. It is the story of the Bible. It is the story of Christianity. And we are making history again today.

There is no choice about whether to go forward or not. Just as there was no choice on D-Day, there is no choice but that.

*[On whether to commence the Normandy invasion in marginal weather conditions]*

**"General Dwight D. Eisenhower:** I'm quite positive we must give the order. I don't like it, but there it is. Gentlemen, I don't see how we can possibly do anything... but go."

We must not worry whether we have the resources or not. People can say we are weak or we do not have the wherewithal to save the world. But saying that does not make it true. We have them all, for God has them all. The only question is when or how we shall use them.

**Maj. Werner Pluskat:** [on the phone again] You know those five thousand ships you say the Allies haven't got? Well, they've got them!

Yes, we've got them. All the ships, planes, and weapons and more we need to win the war. Let the Longest Day of Faith, the day everything changed, be today for you!

The "Greatest Generation" fought the war, won it, came home, and raised families free to be the Christians we are today. We are the generation who can save the world today.