

Starting Over *Again*

When William Carey was well-established in his pioneer missionary work in India in the late 18th Century, his supporters in England sent a printer to assist him. Soon the two men were turning out portions of the Bible for distribution.

Carey had spent many years learning the language so he could produce the Scriptures in the local dialect. He had also prepared dictionaries and grammar books for the use of his successors.

One day while Carey was away, a fire broke out and completely destroyed the building, the presses, many Bibles and the precious manuscripts, dictionaries and grammar books. When he returned and was told of the tragic loss, he showed no sign of despair or impatience.

Instead, he knelt and thanked God that he still had the strength to do the work over again. He started immediately, not wasting a moment in self-pity. Before his death, Carey had duplicated and even improved on his earlier achievements. He is credited with printing the Bible in more than 40 languages and dialects.

The next time you face a trying situation, ask the Lord for perseverance.

Then pick up the pieces and start over again.

--Beecher Hunter