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Woman, you have great faith!

(Matthew 15:28)

Don't give up!

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Dear friends of the word,

Being a foreign student from a poor country, she'd had many difficult experiences with the visa and immigration department. She'd been turned away repeatedly because of missing documents. To extend her student visa for another year felt like the way of the cross to her. Yet again some document seemed to be missing. She was turned away coldly and with an arrogant gaze. She left the building in tears. She'd not understood what document was missing. She remembered her motto: Don't give up. She composed herself and went back into the building. This time the case worker was a lot friendlier and it turned out that she had all the documents required.

A young Canaan mother whose daughter had fallen ill had made a similar experience. She needed help. The young woman had heard of Jesus. She went to see him and -in all her despair and distress- cried out for help. Jesus reacted harshly and unsympathetic, because he was taking care of his Jewish people. He said: "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs!" But the young – and in Jesus' eyes heathen woman- wasn't to be intimidated. She said: Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall of their masters' table" (Matthew 15; 27) This unrelenting faith moved Jesus that much that he said: "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted."

Many things in life must be fought for. Many things don't come to us automatically. It requires dedication and patience. He/she who doesn't give up even in difficult circumstances shows a power within his/her soul that touches and moves hearts. Being persistent gives peace a real chance – in your own heart and in day to day life. **Don't give up!**

For the OnWordTeam

Meinolf Wacker