

“Never Give Up!”
Galatians 6:1-10, page 1141

Introduction:

1. Winston Churchill was prime minister of Britain in 1940-45, and he led Britain through World War II:
 - A. “We shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end. We shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air. We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing-grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills. We shall never surrender!”
 - B. “This is the lesson: never give in, never give in, never, never, never, never—in nothing, great or small, large or petty—never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense. Never yield to force, never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy.”
2. The apostle Paul also had the courage and determination: *II Corinthians 4:7-9*: “*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed....*”
3. Let’s examine this “Never Give Up” spirit.

- I. **Some things in life should be given up! Hebrews 12:1**: “*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us....*”
 - A. Our friend, Nelle Samson, ran the Detroit Marathon at the age of fifty years old!
 1. Nelle did not wear a coat.
 2. She did not pack her lunch.
 3. She did not carry bottled water.
 4. She did have good quality running shoes.
 5. She wore a light cotton tank top/light weight running shorts.
 6. She gave up everything not necessary as she ran the twenty-six mile race.
 - B. It is safe to say that every person here today is carrying some baggage that is hindering our Christian lives.
 - C. Each of us needs to give up stuff that is holding us back from experiencing the best God has for us.
 1. Pride.
 2. Prejudice.
 3. Addictions.
 4. Impure thoughts.
 5. Recreation/hobbies.
 6. Being a workaholic.
 7. Uncontrolled spending.
 8. Gossip.
 9. Uncontrolled temper.
 10. Critical attitude.
 - D. We must lay aside everything that hinders us from serving God and fulfilling His mission for us as we serve Him.

- II. Some things in life should not be given up! *Philippians 4:8-9*: “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”**
- A. Like Churchill, we need to determine, “I will never give up:”
 1. Bible study.
 2. Prayer time.
 3. Church attendance.
 4. Fellowship with believers.
 5. Personal witness to nonbelievers.
 6. Obedience to the Holy Spirit.
 7. Helping those in need.
 8. Stewardship of every aspect of our lives (body, soul, spirit, possessions).
 - B. The greatest danger to a dynamic Christian life is a slow erosion of our belief and ministry.
 - C. The greatest danger to America and our religious freedom is the slow erosion of morality.
 - D. Every time we give up one of the essentials to a dynamic Christian life, we become weaker, less committed, and our focus to be Christ-like is diluted. *Revelation 3:14-16*: “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth.”
- III. The reward is given to the faithful—those who never give up! *II Timothy 4:7-8*: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”**
- A. Nelle Samson talked about the wall you hit when running a marathon:
 1. The wall is usually about the 15-mile part of the race.
 2. Muscles are cramping; the body is becoming fatigued.
 3. You begin questioning if you can finish the race; you just want to give up!
 - B. That is exactly what Satan attempts to do in our Christian lives.
 1. He wears us down with times of trial and testing.
 2. He points out all the negative aspects of other believers’ conduct.
 3. He emphasizes the times of disappointment.
 4. He attempts to isolate us from other Christians.
 - C. We begin to question the value of the struggle to finish our Christian race.
 - D. Satan suggested to Job of the Old Testament: “Just curse God and die.”

Conclusion:

1. My cousin, Jack, had a bulldog.
 - A. We often played in the hay barn, and the dog was always there.
 - B. There was a rope with a big knot on the end about three feet off the barn floor.
 - C. This not very smart dog would jump up and grab the knot.
 - D. He would refuse to let go for what seemed like hours.
 - E. We usually felt sorry for him and picked him up, then he would let loose.
2. When life seems impossible and there is a desire to give up, DON’T!
 - A. Tie a knot and hold on!
 - B. God will come along and pick you up.