

THEME: COURAGE

1 CHRONICLES 28:20 “Be strong and courageous, and do the work.

- **Recap:** last week, we discussed the concept of facing your demons. We studied **ACTS 19:15** and how a demon possessed man attacked the seven sons of Sceva, because Sceva’s sons had heard of Jesus but had no relationship with Him, therefore no authority or power over demons.
- We looked at the power and authority that we have over the demonic, when we’re living a life fully submitted to the lordship of Jesus.
- This week, we’ll study the concept of having **the courage to never give up**.
- Are the pressures of life causing you to consider giving up in one way or another?
- Have you began doubting if you really have what it takes, to be successful in life?
- We’re in a continuous battle between the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of God and sometimes, we get very tired from these battles.
- We can be physically, mentally and spiritually tired.
- Are you perhaps asking: “What’s the point of fighting and never quitting anyway”?
- Why must we keep on keeping on?
- These next two verses, tell us why:

2 CORINTHIANS 4:1,16(NLTSE)

vs1 Therefore, since God in His mercy has given us this wonderful ministry, **we never give up**

vs16 That is why **we never give up**. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day

- A God given ministry, should never be given up on

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5(NLTSE)

“We are human, but we don’t wage war as humans do. We use God’s mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.”

EPHESIANS 6:12(NLTSE)

For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

- From the above two passages of scripture, we see that there’s a battle in the spiritual realm and a battle in the fleshly realm.
- Sometimes we must fight against our own sinful flesh and our own stubborn will
- The good news, is that the Holy Spirit gives us power over sin:

ROMANS 8:1-2(NLTSE)

“So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death”

- We're free from the power of sin but not from the presence of sin.
- However, soldiers engaged in warfare eventually get tired and must rest. If they don't rest, they'll start to consider quitting as an option.
- Sometimes the fighting is very very tough, even though we do it in Christ's strength

COLOSSIANS 1:28-29(NLTSE) "So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ. **That's why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ's mighty power that works within me"**

- When we feel like giving up and think we may be the only ones facing these battles, let's remember this:
1 CORINTHIANS 10:13(NLTSE) The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out (*NKJV:the way*) so that you can endure.
GALATIANS 6:9(NLTSE) So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing **if we don't give up**

- Jesus became our rescuer so that we could rescue others
- Living for Jesus, living like Jesus and loving like Jesus, is not popular with those who oppose God's Kingdom:
MARK 13:13(NLTSE) And everyone will hate you because you are my followers. But the one who **endures to the end will be saved**

In **GENESIS 32:24-26**

Jacob refused to let go of God, until God blessed him, even though it caused Jacob great physical discomfort. It cost Jacob something to receive the blessing. Jacob was willing to pay the price.

- It changed the way Jacob walked, forever.
- Have we let Jesus change the way we "walk" through life?
- Are we willing to pay the price like Jacob did. He was never the same after this encounter with God.

1 TIMOTHY 6:12(NLTSE) Fight the good fight for the true faith. **Hold tightly** to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have confessed so well before many witnesses

- Jesus never gave up on us

MATTHEW 26:39(NKJV) He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

HEBREWS 12:1-2(NLTSE) "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. **Because of the joy awaiting**

Him, (NKJV: joy set before Him) He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honour beside God's throne"

- We are the reason Jesus never gave up. We are the joy that was set before Him

CARE GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Discuss some of the things, that get people to give up on a cause or venture, that's really worthwhile pursuing.
2. In the context of our Christian walk, what are some of the most important reasons, to never give up?
3. What areas of your walk of faith, have you given up on, or considered giving up on? Discuss this amongst each other and pray for one another within the group