

Never Give Up – 2

To live the life that God has set us apart for we have got to be people that never quit

In order to live this way, we need to be people that are resolute, persistent, and unyielding to the attacks of the enemy of our faith

- Simply put we must be relentless
- Relentless in our pursuit of God and His promises

Relentless Definition: adamant, rigorous, severe, uncompromising, unstoppable, tenacious, constant, gritty single-minded, steadfast, persistent and stringent

Hebrews 12:1 (NLT)

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.

2 Timothy 4:7 (NLT)

⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.

Living a relentless life for God has more to do with our relentless pursuit of Him

- It is not about being strong in our own strength but trusting God and His word
- When we pursue the word of God we become relentless in our spirit

We learned in “Brand New” that Grace is empowerment!

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NLT)

“My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.”

1 Peter 5:5 (NKJV)

“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

Those who are truly humble believe, trust, and obey God’s word over what they think, reason, feel or desire

They depend completely on God’s ability rather than their own

Romans 5:2 (NLT)

² Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God’s glory.

- It’s not that grace fails
- Our faith wanes and cuts off the distribution of grace
- Our faith is the pipeline for grace

Pride and faith are polar opposites

Habakkuk 2:4 (NKJV)

⁴ “Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.

- Humility and faith go hand in hand
- Pride and unbelief go hand in hand
- To not believe God’s word is to declare we know better or trust our own judgement more – Pride

Jeremiah 17:5, 7 (NLT)

⁵ This is what the LORD says: “Cursed are those who put their trust in mere humans, who rely on human strength and turn their hearts away from the LORD.

⁷ “But blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence.

- Ten of the spies based their timid prospects on their own strength
- Caleb and Joshua saw how big God was compared to the enemy and based their estimates on God’s grace
- In God’s eyes the ten were proud and only two were humble

Ephesians 3:20 (NLT)

²⁰ Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

Humility is often mistaken as being weak, wimpy or spineless yet its actually quite the opposite

Those who are truly humble are mistaken for being proud and arrogant

12 Spies...

The majority of Israel agreed with the ten spies. In actuality their pride was unbelief. They were basing all of their calculations on their own wisdom, ability and strength.

Caleb and Joshua were truly humble – took God at His word
God rewards faith not calculations and ability

Remember David...

His father sends him to check on his brothers at the front lines

He finds them and the whole army hiding from Goliath 40 days

He shows up and declares this statement of faith

1 Samuel 17:26 (NLT)

²⁶ David asked the soldiers standing nearby, “What will a man get for killing this Philistine and ending his defiance of Israel? Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?”

- This infuriates his older brother
- He feels he is full of himself

1 Samuel 17:28 (NLT)

²⁸ But when David's oldest brother, Eliab, heard David talking to the men, he was angry. "What are you doing around here anyway?" he demanded. "What about those few sheep you're supposed to be taking care of? I know about your pride and deceit. You just want to see the battle!"

You and I might make the same assumption that David made a conceded comment

- Could it be that Eliab was the one full of pride?
- Remember pride is trusting our own strength
- Humility is trusting the Lord

1 Samuel 16:7 (NLT)

⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The LORD doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

- Both Jesse and Samuel thought the older, taller one would be the choice
- God looks for a man after His heart, not a person's gifting and physical attributes
- He looks for a person full of humility and faith

Acts 13:22 (NLT)

²² But God removed Saul and replaced him with David, a man about whom God said, ‘I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart. He will do everything I want him to do.’*

- Humility characterized David’s life
- We know that David was far from weak, wimpy or spineless

Psalms 118:6 (NLT)

⁶ The Lord is for me, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?

- David shakes off Eliab’s verbal assault and attacks Goliath
- He challenges him and states he will cut off his head
- With a single stone he defeats the enemy of God

1 Samuel 17:45 (NLT)

⁴⁵ David replied to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Heaven’s Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

- David’s older brothers and the rest of the army based their calculations for battle on their own strength
- Saul offers David his armor
 - When he doesn’t accept it he is viewed as arrogant and proud

David envisioned the battle through God's strength and "Mighty Hand"

I believe the enemy has worked overtime to pervert our definition of humility as being soft spoken and weak in demeanor as well as non-confrontational

That is light years from the true meaning of the word
True humility boldly trusts the Lord and His word

When you are truly humble you have a clear understanding of your call and the anointing on your life to accomplish it

Moses...

Numbers 12:3 (NKJV)

³ (Now the man Moses *was* very humble, more than all men who *were* on the face of the earth.)

- Who wrote the book of numbers?
 - Moses
 - He describes himself as humble – how seemingly proud
- Humility doesn't mean we view ourselves as worms
 - It means quite the opposite
 - We realize how great the power of God is in our lives making us more than we could be on our own

Jesus...

Matthew 11:28–29 (NLT)

²⁸ Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

- The problem is not what Moses and Jesus said
- The problem is our understanding of the meaning of humility has drifted from the true meaning of the word
- Humility is God designed to give us confidence and produce a positive powerful character quality
- True humility is absolute obedience and dependency on God

The Apostle Paul warns against false humility

Colossians 2:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in *false humility* and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind.

- False humility can cost us our God intended reward
- The ten spies cheated not only themselves but also their families and millions of others
- They never entered the promised land!
- Only Caleb and Joshua and a new generation entered
- This new generation entered boldly, humble in the power of Gods mighty hand!

We are all called to be leaders and influencers

- So how are you leading?
- Are you armed with true humility and God's power?
- Or false humility and your own strength?

We are more than conquerors – **Romans 8:37**

Yet our own plans and ideas that are outside of the word of God may seem wise but have no effect on living a conquering life

Colossians 2:23 (NLT)

²³ These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide **no help in conquering** a person's evil desires.

- Everyone in Caleb and Joshua's generation had been positioned to conquer
- Eliab and his brothers should have conquered the Philistines long before David arrived
- False humility stole their strength, promise, fruit and ability to rule in life and ultimately their eternal reward

Romans 12:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

- Don't be wise in your own opinion
- Be wise in God's opinion of you

To give our personal opinion on a situation or topic outside of God's wisdom is a lack of godly fear – nothing but pride

- Caleb and Joshua didn't adhere to the opinions of their contemporaries
 - God had clearly made His will known
 - They feared God and finished well

Proverbs 3:34 (NIV)

³⁴ He (God) mocks proud mockers but shows favor to the humble

- Who would want God mocking them?
- The Lord doesn't tolerate pride – example Lucifer

Psalm 19:9 (NKJV)

⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever.

- Godly fear, faith and humility are the true, threefold cord that can't be easily broken
- Show me a person who ignores what God says in His word and I'll show you a person who doesn't endure through the hardships in life
- His only hope is true repentance and humility

Pride is very deceitful and our enemy's most effective weapon to prevent us from finishing well