

## Never Give Up – 3

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)

<sup>7</sup> 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

Habakkuk 2:4 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> “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
- The 2 spies and David were humble
- The 10 spies, Eliab and the others were proud
- Pride looks at our own strength and limits
- Humility looks to God’s strength – limitless

## Be Sober and Vigilant

### 1 Peter 5:5–9 (NLT)

<sup>5</sup> In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” <sup>6</sup> So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. <sup>7</sup> Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. <sup>8</sup> Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers\* all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.

- Arming ourselves begins with humility
- True humility is giving our cares to Him
- We cannot finish well if we are weighted down with personal concerns
- Worry, anxiety and fear are enemies of our destiny
- True humility liberates us and frees us of this world’s system
- Vs. 8 Be sober; Be vigilant – NKJV
- Sober: serious, sensible, solemn
- When we are drunk we are far from any of these
- Have you seen the things we do when were drunk?
- Lose all sense of responsibility
- Can’t focus, can’t talk, can’t walk
- We can become an easy victim – theft, assault, so on

When your drunk you think you can fight but you can't  
This is true spiritually as well  
It's not just being drunk with alcohol but drunk on the world

### Revelation 17:1, 2 (NLT)

One of the seven angels who had poured out the seven bowls came over and spoke to me. "Come with me," he said, "and I will show you the judgment that is going to come on the great prostitute, who rules over many waters.<sup>2</sup> The kings of the world have committed adultery with her, and the people who belong to this world have been made drunk by the wine of her immorality."

- Am I so intoxicated with the things of this world and the worlds system that I am committing spiritual adultery?
- Caught up in the worlds cares, riches and pleasures?
- Am I more intimate with the world and all its offers than I am with the Holy Spirit?
- Do I merely have an appearance of godliness?
- Have I lost my spiritual edge?
- If so I am an easy target for the enemy's theft, deceit, destruction or even death
- Remember king Solomon
- Started out good but became intoxicated with his many wives and their false gods

Our only answer

### Ephesians 5:18 (NLT)

<sup>18</sup> Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit,

- Not just physical wine but anything that can intoxicate us will weaken our focus on God and His ways
- Excessive attention to...
- Our work, the opposite sex, a sport or hobby, social networking, entertainment, food, nature's beauty

*There's nothing wrong with enjoying things but when we draw our satisfaction from them instead of God Himself, they become intoxicating addictions*

Jesus should be our first love and passion

Time for a check up

- What do I hunger and thirst for?
- Be brutally honest
- What do I dwell on in my free time?
- What's consuming my thoughts?
- What you drink the most is what you thirst for
- What you eat the most is what you're hungry for

### John 6:35 (NLT)

<sup>35</sup> Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

- If you start drinking water instead of soda you crave water

When we fill ourselves with the word and obey it, when we invest quality time in prayer and obey His direction we will be filled with the spirit

### Galatians 5:22–23 (NLT)

<sup>22</sup> But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

*Vigilance: “Keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulty,” “Ever awake and alert; sleeplessly watchful”*

Vigilance is a crucial, non-optional factor in being armed

We have been given power over all the enemy but if we don't out up a fight he will walk all over us

### Colossians 4:2 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

When Jesus was facing His greatest trial and new the importance of watching (being vigilant)

Because he was in tune with the Spirit he became “exceedingly sorrowful” and did the first thing He knew to do, go to the garden and pray

### Matthew 26:38 (NKJV)

<sup>38</sup> Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.”

- Maintaining a consistent prayer life will enable us to be more “in tune” with the things of the Spirit
- We recognize warnings, interpret them, and act accordingly
- It’s the only way to stay ahead of the enemy

It’s important to ask the Holy Spirit to help because many times we don’t know what to pray – He does!

### Romans 8:26–27 (NLT)

<sup>26</sup> And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. <sup>27</sup> And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers\* in harmony with God’s own will.

- Groanings are the deep sorrows we feel in our soul but don’t know quite what to pray
- Once we recognize sorrow we must respond
- We can either be diligent and respond with vigilance or choose to be slothful and quench the sorrow by repeatedly ignoring or suppressing it
- The Holy Spirit will move us from groanings to specifics if we follow His lead

## 1 Corinthians 14:15 AMP

<sup>15</sup> Then what am I to do? I will pray with the <sup>[a]</sup>spirit [by the Holy Spirit that is within me] and I will pray with the mind [using words I understand]; I will sing with the spirit [by the Holy Spirit that is within me] and I will sing with the mind [using words I understand].

In the Garden of Gethsemane when Jesus felt the sorrow and warned the disciples what to do, “stay here and watch with me”

He then went a little further to pray and when He returned He found them asleep

- Why were they asleep?
- From a hard day's work or did they eat too much? – No
- The Bible tells us why – Sorrow

## Luke 22:45 (NKJV)

<sup>45</sup> When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow.

- Remember Peter, along with the others, boldly proclaimed that they would die before they would deny Jesus
- Do I have the diligence to remain relentless in my obedience or merely a desire that falls short?
- The only way we can stay the course is through watching (vigilance) and praying



## Jude 20 (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup> But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

- Our flesh is weak and will always seek the path of least resistance
  - Our flesh doesn't want to fight
  - Prayer builds our inner strength and overrides the desires of the flesh
  - It keeps us from fainting
  - The disciples not only fainted and fell asleep once but twice
  - Many times God will warn us once, maybe twice but if we continue to ignore Him he may remain silent until we repent
  - Go back to the last time you heard His voice
  - The disciples ultimately were attacked and fled
- Matthew 26:56

## Luke 18:1 (NKJV)

**18** Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,

- The parable of the woman and the judge
- Because of her persistence he granted her request
- Don't faint when sorrow (groanings) comes over you
- Don't let TV, social networks, surfing the web, texting, computer games, busyness distract and numb you
- PRAY!