

## Never Give Up – 9

To live the life that God has set us apart for we have got to be people that never quit. People that are resolute, persistent, and unyielding to the attacks of the enemy of our faith

### 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.

## Run for the Prize

### 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 (AMP)

<sup>24</sup> <sup>[a]</sup>Do you not know that in a race all the runners run [their very best to win], but only one receives the prize? Run [your race] in such a way that you may seize the prize *and* make it yours!

All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You're after one that's gold eternally.

Those who fix their eyes firmly on the prize will train more relentlessly and endure extreme adversity

Vision: it's what they see that motivates them

- What do you see?
- What you see will make you stand out above the others
- There is reward for those who never give up

## 2 John 8 (NLT)

<sup>8</sup> Watch out that you do not lose what we\* have worked so hard to achieve. Be diligent so that you receive your full reward.

- What is the reward we are working for?
- The prize we are warned not to lose?
- I believe it is on two levels
  - The first is specific to the work we have done
    - We do not all get the same reward
  - The second is the reward of a closer relationship with Him

God is building Himself a House

When you are building your “Dream House” there is a great deal of anticipation and excitement

I don’t believe it is much different for God

Here on earth we name prominent homes

- The Queen of England has Buckingham Palace
- The President the White House
- Actor Michael Douglas’s the Longlands in Bermuda
- The late George Harrison’s Friar Park
- Nicolas Cage’s Midford Castle

God refers to His house as Zion

**Psalm 132:13–14 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> For the LORD has chosen Zion; He has desired *it* for His dwelling place: <sup>14</sup> “This *is* My resting place forever; Here I will dwell, for I have desired it.

- God desires His house
- He is eagerly anticipating it
- It has been in His heart for untold generations

**Psalm 102:16 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> For the LORD shall build up Zion; He shall appear in His glory.

**Psalm 9:11 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> Sing praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion! Declare His deeds among the people.

**Psalm 50:2 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God will shine forth.

When you build a house you start with a sure foundation

**Isaiah 28:16 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily.

Jesus is the cornerstone of God's foundation

**1 Corinthians 3:11 (NLT)**

<sup>11</sup> For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.

You and I are important stones in the foundation of Zion as well

**1 Peter 2:5 (NLT)**

<sup>5</sup> And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple.

Together we are the materials that make up God's house, which He will dwell in forever

**Ephesians 2:19–22 (The Message)**

God is building a home. He's using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.

Not only are we the material but we are also referred to as fellow workers or **Sub-Contractors**

### 1 Corinthians 3:9 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup>For we are God's **fellow workers**. You are God's field, God's building.

You and I are the plumbers, electricians, framers, dry-wallers, roofers, tile layers, brick layers and carpet layers.....

If we build the House what does the builder do?

First: He designs it

### Hebrews 11:10 (NLT)

<sup>10</sup>Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, **a city designed and built by God**.

- God is the great architect
- The eternal artist and creator

Second: The builder orders the materials

### Ephesians 1:4 (NLT)

<sup>4</sup>Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.

### Jeremiah 1:5 (NLT)

<sup>5</sup> “I knew you before I formed you in your mother’s womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations.”

Third: He schedules the subs

On large commercial projects there is a Site Manager or Construction manager

- Their responsibility is to make sure all the other subs are communicating and working on schedule together
- They make sure the job is done safely, on time and under budget
- Jesus and Holy Spirit are the Site Managers of God’s House

### John 17:4 (NLT)

<sup>4</sup> I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.

### John 16:13 (NLT)

<sup>13</sup> When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.

Jesus has finished His work and now the Holy Spirit delivers the plans to complete the building of Zion

### Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

<sup>10</sup> For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

- Not only are we created to “be someone” we are also created to “do something”
- Recently there has been an emphasis on us “Being” who Christ made us to be
- The problem is there has been and lack of emphasis on doing
- This has created a lethargic Church in western culture
- As a result, we are concerned with “life” and less concerned with participating in the building project – God's Building
- It's not only those in “full time” ministry that have a genuine calling
  - It's for all of us
- It's not a building of brick and mortar the bricks are people

### 1 Peter 2:5, 7 (NLT)

<sup>5</sup> And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests.\* Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.

<sup>7</sup> Yes, you who trust him recognize the honor God has given him.\* But for those who reject him, “The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.”\*

### 1 Corinthians 3:8–9 (NLT)

<sup>8</sup> The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. <sup>9</sup> For we are both God’s workers. And you are God’s field. You are God’s building.

- Am I building for the eternal or the temporal?
- Am I building the kingdom of God or my personal kingdom?

### Matthew 20:23, 25-27 (NLT)

<sup>23</sup> Jesus told them, “You will indeed drink from my bitter cup. But I have no right to say who will sit on my right or my left. My Father has prepared those places for the ones he has chosen.”

<sup>25</sup> But Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. <sup>26</sup> But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave.



## An example from the Old Testament

### 1 Corinthians 10:11 (NLT)

<sup>11</sup> These things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age.

- The old testament examples are given to warn us
- Shadows, types or illustrations of things to come in the future ages

### Revelation 1:6 (NLT)

<sup>6</sup> He (*Jesus*) has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

- Jesus has made all those who believe to be priests to God

### Ezekiel 44:10–11 (The Message)

“The Levites who walked off and left me, along with everyone else—all Israel—who took up with all the no-god idols, will pay for everything they did wrong. From now on they’ll do only the menial work in the Sanctuary: guard the gates and help out with the Temple chores—and also kill the sacrificial animals for the people and serve them.

- Those who turn aside to idols will be given only menial work
- Idolatry can show up in practically anything
- Anything that is more important to us or fills a need that God is meant to fill can become an idol

An idol will rob you of your relentless pursuit of the things of God

It will steal the strength you need to run the race faithfully to the end

An idol may please us initially but in the long run will leave us high and dry

Heaven will be so much better than anything in this world, however there will be status in heaven – places of greater and lesser honor

### Psalm 84:10 (NLT)

<sup>10</sup> A single day in your courts is better than a thousand anywhere else! I would rather be a gatekeeper (*floor scrubber*) in the house of my God than live the good life in the homes of the wicked.

- *Floor Scrubber* – MSG
- Any place in God's house, Zion is better than life any place else
- But let's not miss the point of what I believe God wants us to know about the treasure we are storing up for all of eternity
- Let us not forget that the way we build makes a difference for all of eternity

## 1 Corinthians 3:12–15 (NLT)

<sup>12</sup> Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. <sup>13</sup> But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. <sup>14</sup> If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.

- Is barely escaping much of a finish?

## Ezekiel 44:15 (The Message)

“But the Levitical priests who descend from Zadok, who faithfully took care of my Sanctuary when everyone else went off and left me, are going to come into my presence and serve me. They are going to carry out the priestly work of offering the solemn sacrifices of worship. Decree of GOD, the Master.

- Those who finish well will have an inheritance
- Those who remain faithful
- We will spend eternity close to God, serving Him
- It's one thing to scrub floors but another to serve the King of Kings
- Those who are closer hear things the others don't
- Remember the multitudes, the 12, the 3 and the one – John
- Mount of transfiguration – in the Garden, etc.