

Never Give Up

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

“The relentless believer is a history maker in the truest sense”

John Bevere – Relentless

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.”

- True humility is trusting God’s word which produces great boldness towards the situation we are facing, bringing victory
- Pride is trusting our own strength, contrary to the word of God and it will always cause us to live below God’s standards for our life

2 Peter 3:18 (NLT)

¹⁸ Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All glory to him, both now and forever! Amen.

- Growing in grace the and knowledge of Jesus is about learning God’s ways
- This builds our faith – producing God’s works through us

You may be facing a situation right now that seems impossible
Adversity in your marriage, family, employment, business,
school, finances, health or elsewhere
Your situation may seem utterly hopeless and without a solution

Mark 10:27 (NLT)

²⁷ Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God.”

Grace is the power to overcome hardship. When Jesus bid Peter to walk on the water He simply bid him to come. That one word was all the grace he needed to believe and do the impossible. When he stopped believing the grace (power) waned and he began to sink.

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
- We are left fighting in our own strength
- If a pipeline ruptures, there’s still water it just doesn’t make it to your house
- Our faith is the pipeline for grace

This is why we must “build ourselves up” in the faith of Jesus Christ

- Get into God’s word
- Live a life of praise and worship
- Pray in the Spirit
- If we don’t our faith will wane and we’ll start to live in our own strength
- Soon we are not ruling and start letting the world rule us

The apostle Peter writes that the only way we grow in our new life and not return to our former life is by growing in grace through faith

By building our faith we can increase our faith

Romans 1:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “*The just shall live by faith.*”

- The more faith, the bigger the pipe
- Consequently, more water (grace)
- God can entrust us with more responsibility to bring new life to others

In order to increase our faith and allow the grace of God to flow through more abundantly we must remain humble

We need humility and patience to finish well and live an effective life

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

- They seek His will
- They're living on mission

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

Israel spying out the Promised Land

Numbers 13:2 (NLT)

² “Send out men to explore the land of Canaan, the land I am giving to the Israelites. Send one leader from each of the twelve ancestral tribes.”

- Moses sends out the twelve
- Ten *seemed* Humble
- Two *seemed* Proud

After “*forty days*” in the Promised Land

The ten said they saw a land flowing with milk and honey, but the giants there are too strong for us

- We must consider our well-being, our families
- They are skilled – we are slaves
- It’s impossible to take the land
 - Sounds humble, honest and safe

The two said – We can do it!

- They may have seemed careless or crazy
- They may have seemed proud and arrogant
 - If we follow them, we may be in danger

Numbers 14:11 (NIV)

¹¹ The LORD said to Moses, “How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the signs I have performed among them?”

- It takes genuine humility to have faith
- You rely and trust God’s ability not your own
- What the majority thought was humility was unbelief
- Unbelief is viewed by God as pride

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.

God rewards faith not calculations and ability

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.

- It takes genuine humility to have faith

When we humble ourselves under Gods might and strength we are refusing to allow human ideas and experiences to rise above Gods word

We believe regardless of our natural reason or logic

Four hundred years of slavery in Egypt had taught the children of Israel they could not defend themselves against an army of greater strength

They could do nothing to free themselves; it had taken God himself to deliver them from the dictatorship of Pharaoh

Exodus 13:9 (NLT)

⁹ ‘With a strong hand, the LORD rescued you from Egypt.’*

Yet they clung to their longtime experience of slavery instead of the hand of God that delivered them

Psalms 106:13 (NLT)

¹³ Yet how quickly they forgot what he had done! They wouldn't wait for his counsel!

- How often do we do the same thing?
- We have been set free from the tyrannical rule of Satan
- How much more can He handle far less complex difficulties in our lives?
- Healing a sickness or disease
- Providing for a need
- Granting wisdom
- Empowering us to overcome impossible odds

Colossians 2:6 (NLT)

⁶ And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him.

2 Peter 1:9 (NLT)

⁹ But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins.

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

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

Psalm 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