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## Resisting The Temptation To Quit

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Many of us during different seasons of our lives, have been tempted to quit, just give up but we have \*\*people who are encouraging us forward in our walk with the Lord, avoiding the temptations and sins that would try to drag us down. We are winners, we have Jesus and the Holy Spirit in our lives and we are victorious. The following scripture speaks of what most of us feel on the inside.

Psa 71:6-7 "It was you who supported me from the day I was born, loving me, helping me through my life's journey. You've made me into a miracle; no wonder I trust you and praise you forever! Many marvel at my success, but I know it is all because of you, my mighty protector! I'm overflowing with your praise for all you've done, and your splendor thrills me all day long."  
PASSION

We must learn how to get up, we cannot spend the rest of our lives talking about the mistakes that has happened before, we will never move forward. We must learn to talk about getting up and going on with Jesus. Paul made the statement found in the following scripture, he was wanting to go to the people, but satan had hindered him.

Hinder means to break up the road in which we are traveling, like the road repair we see in cities where there seems to be continual road repair, causing us to have to change the course that we are on, finding a way around it and finally getting back on the right road.

1 Thess 2:18 "Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us." KJV

The question is what do we do now that our road has been cut off, we were traveling so well and now we are put on hold unable to continue? Do we stop turn around and go home, or do we continue looking for a different path, waiting for the light to change? We have a destination and we are not looking to quit, regardless of the road blocks that we may encounter. Gods plan is to get us back on course.

Examples are given of men who refused to quit, an evangelist who preached world wide, who did not have many sermons to share with the people, but didn't quit and his ministry ended with him bringing many, many to salvation, becoming born again and a boxer, who having retired as champion decided at a later time in his life, to again enter the ring and take on the current champion, 9 rounds in the fight he was knocked down, but in the 10th round he knocked out the man he was challenging, he never gave up. They both never gave up, they did not quit. We read that many men in the bible got back up and never quit.

The enemy tries to knock us off course, tries to put a label on us and does this with words spoken against us, unless we are alert spiritually to those words, we will begin to accept what is being said, but that is not Gods plan for our lives, He does not see us as quitters because words are so powerful.

A story was shared regarding a couple that encountered a man who began to talk with them at a restaurant where they were eating and even though they were not really wanting to hear his story, patiently waited for him to speak. He told of how he had been born to an unwed mother, never knowing who his father was and had grown up with everyone wondering about the identity, he felt shame because of the label that had been put on him, became withdrawn and didn't get involved in many things. However, he would attend church, coming late and leaving early so that no one would look at him differently, but once when he had attended church, there was a new pastor who didn't know him and after service questioned him about his father, the new pastor began to realize that the little boy didn't know who he was and immediately spoke these words to the boy, "I know who your father is, I see the resemblance, He is your heavenly Father", from that time on the little boy began to change, seeing himself as someone with worth because of the words spoken over him. After the older man finished sharing his story, he left and the couple asked someone who he was and the response was, he was the little boy in the story and he was also Ben Hoover, former governor of the state of Tennessee.

People do not intend to label us, but they do and when our road is broken up and we have a decision to make, are we going to go with what our Heavenly Father is saying or what people are saying because they are motivated to speak the devils plan in our life? The following scriptures will help us in making our decision. These words are learned principles or virtue in our lives, but there is an explosive power on the inside

of us, enabling us to live through any challenge that may come against us.

Phil 4:12-13 "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." KJV

Phil 4:12-13 "I'm glad in God, far happier than you would ever guess—happy that you're again showing such strong concern for me. Not that you ever quit praying and thinking about me. You just had no chance to show it. Actually, I don't have a sense of needing anything personally. I've learned by now to be quite content whatever my circumstances. I'm just as happy with little as with much, with much as with little. I've found the \*recipe for being happy whether full or hungry, hands full or hands empty. Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am. I don't mean that your help didn't mean a lot to me—it did. It was a beautiful thing that you came alongside me in my troubles." MESSAGE

\*Another translation might say "secret" something we keep from other people but we are trained in it

Phil 4:12-13 "I know what it means to lack, and I know what it means to experience overwhelming abundance. For I'm trained in the secret of overcoming all things, whether in fullness or in hunger. And I find that the strength of Christ's explosive power infuses me to conquer every difficulty." PASSION

If we are going to survive and learn how to deal with these unexpected challenges and difficulties that come our way, that we didn't have planned, we must start training ourselves in what God says about us and who we are in Jesus Christ.

A good example is found in the life of Jonah. His life and the call that was on him can be found in the following scriptures and even though he tried to go against what God had called him to do, in the end he repented and made the right choice and did as the Lord had instructed him. He experienced severe difficulties, but after being obedient and making a change, he didn't quit but did what God had instructed him to do in the beginning. He had even told the others on the ship that God had instructed him to make the trip, but God is a God of second chances and He made a way out of the situation for Jonah when he changed his mind and decided to follow Gods plan.

Jonah 1:1-15 "Now the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. 3 But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. 4 But the Lord sent out a great wind into the sea, and there

was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken. 5 Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep. 6 So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not. 7 And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah. 8 Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil is upon us; What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what is thy country? and of what people art thou? 9 And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land 10 Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him. Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them. 11 Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous. 12 And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you. 13 Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them. 14 Wherefore they cried unto the Lord, and said, We beseech thee, O Lord, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for thou, O Lord, hast done as it pleased thee. 15 So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging." KJV

Jonah 1:16-17 "Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the Lord, and made vows. 17 Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights." KJV

Jonah 2:1-10 "Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord his God out of the fish's belly, 2 And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the Lord, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice. 3 For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me. 4 Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple. 5 The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. 6 I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O Lord my God. 7 When my soul fainted within me I remembered the Lord: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple. 8 They that observe \*lying vanities forsake their own mercy. 9 But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord. 10 And the Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land." KJV

Jonah 3:1-2 "And the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the second time, saying, 2 Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee." KJV

Jonah received the same word again that he had received in chapter 1, this is when he

changed and did what the Lord required of him. Gods plan had never changed, Jonah's attitude is what had changed.

If we are going to be overcome by the negative things that are all around us when our roads have been broken up, we are going to forsake Gods mercy, being consumed with all the negative things that people are saying about you and by what has happened, we will forsake Gods mercy and grace that is being poured out to us. \*Lying vanities are subject to change and we cannot be looking at all the negative things. God will give us as many chances as we might need.

Phil 3:13-14 "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." KJV

Phil 1:19 "For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ," KJV

Phil 3:7-8 "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ," KJV

Paul is writing from prison, conditions are not very good for him, he is writing to encourage the believers in the church there. He wasn't consumed with the reason that he was in prison and mistreated wrongly but that he was anticipating of getting out of prison, he was looking to the future. As long as we look behind, we are limited to a box with barriers and boundaries. We start to get out of the box and the enemy brings something from the past up and we get back in the box, not getting ahead of the boundaries that have been placed on us. Paul was forgetting the past and was looking to the mark ahead of him. We are all looking forward to that same mark that is ahead of us which is heaven.

In a revelation of heaven, it seems that the closer to heaven, the narrower the way, there is an intensity to focus, not looking to the right or left, not being distracted by others around, the closer the more focus on the goal. That is what Paul was saying in this scripture, he was being pressed toward the mark.

If our road has been broken up, one way or the other we will get focused. If our road has been broken up or our destiny been impeded, we must find a way to continue on our journey, we cannot lay down and quit if we are wanting to obtain the prize,

quitting is not an option, it is not part of our vocabulary, we are not quitters.

"On the plains of hesitation lie the bodies of thousands of people who on the threshold of victory laid down and quit." Quitting is not an option. When we get closer to our goal, we will be more focused. we won't be distracted but will stay focused, it is so easy when our road is broken up to look and listen to what other people are saying, but what is God saying?

There is nothing too difficult for Jesus to put things back together again, if we are only willing for Him to. There may be many reasons for people wanting to quit, one of which is they are not convinced that God will keep His word, others reasons are, they have not developed the force of patience, they are not staying in fellowship with God, not spending time in the word. Quitting as a reason is not an option. The following scriptures will address the benefits of having roots in God with fixed hearts, laying all hinderances aside, looking to Jesus as the answer and that God will keep His word.

Psa 112:1-3 "Praise ye the Lord. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. 2 His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed. 3 Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever." KJV

Psa 112:1-3 "Shout in celebration of praise to the Lord! Everyone who loves the Lord and delights in him will cherish his words and be blessed beyond expectation. 2 Their descendants will be prosperous and influential. Every generation of his godly lovers will experience his favor. 3 Great blessing and wealth fills the house of the wise, for their integrity endures forever." PASSION

Psa 112:6-9 "Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. 7 He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord. 8 His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies. 9 He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour." KJV

Psa 112: 6-9 "Their circumstances will never shake them and others will never forget their example. 7 They will not live in fear or dread of what may come, for their hearts are firm, ever secure in their faith. 8 Steady and strong, they will not be afraid, but will calmly face their every foe until they all go down in defeat. 9 Never stingy and always generous to those in need, their lives of influence and honor will never be forgotten, for they were full of good deeds." PASSION

A mind that is focused on God won't be involved in gossip or bad news, it will have no effect if their heart is established. Don't be caught up in gossip or bad news,

because "To talk about what happened will be far more damaging than what happened."

Gal 6:1 "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted" KJV

\*\*Heb 12:1-2 "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." KJV

God has already planned our comeback, He is more concerned about our finishing that how we started. There will be restoration that all shall see even the enemy. When we fall we shall get back up.

Micah 7:8 "Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me." KJV