

November 4, 2018

## Don't Give Up

Pastor Charles Mendenhall

It has been a busy week and we have had many things to address this morning. Election time is upon us, we will be having communion service and will be addressing the future of the building fund and the building of a new facility. This Sunday was also the time change where one hour was rolled back on our clocks.

The title today is "don't give up", and we learn there is a price to pay in not giving up. There is always resistance in going to a higher level with God and if we are wanting to go to a higher level in anything we are involved in especially if it is spiritual there will be resistance. We like the feel and emotion of victory it is always good to win, however, we don't like the sacrifice and discipline that goes with winning. Winning or losing is how we play the game but it is always best if we are winning. As we go along the way and take a setback of any kind, we may think about just quitting. The word tells us that we will be a poor specimen.

Pro 24:10 "You are a poor specimen if you can't stand the pressure of adversity." Living

Pro 24:16 "The godly may trip seven times, but they will get up again. But one disaster is enough to overthrow the wicked." NLT

The following was a shared talk that had been given to the US Hockey team in 1980 before they were to compete against the Russian Hockey team for the gold medal in the games. The Russian team was made up of professional skaters, while the US team were all amateurs, but the coach Herb Brooks was determined to fire up the team before the game and gave this "pep" talk to them before hitting the ice. The Russian team had won in many previous years and were about to take on the American team again. They were being prepared for the game they were about to play, getting them fired up

"Great moments are born from great opportunity, and that's what you have here tonight. ONE GAME - if we played them ten times, they might win nine,, but not this game, not tonight, TONIGHT, we skate with them, tonight we stay with them,

and we shut them down because we can. Tonight, we are the greatest hockey team in the world. You were born to be hockey players - everyone of you, and you were meant to be here tonight. This is your time, their time is done, it's over. I'm sick and tired of hearing about what a great hockey team the Soviets have, "----- them", this is your time. Now go out there and take it!"

They went to the ice with Brooks' words in their ears, and they did take the Gold Medal beating Russia by one point. Don't give up on the dreams that you may have, even though they seem to be sometimes unattainable. Gods voice is being heard from heaven, telling us that we can do it, the enemy has maybe taken a shot or two, but it is now our time to experience sweet victory. This is our season, the season of the church, rise up and receive what God has for you. **ARISE** it is your time to be free, seeing the victory that God has for you.

Luke 16:16 "The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." KJV

There is an effort involved, taking a step of faith and there might be some resistance but every man to enter into the kingdom that is preached, the kingdom message, must press into it and we do that by faith.

In the following scriptures we see that faith is being developed with adversity or difficult times. We learn to grow and mature to the place where we have joy regardless of the circumstances that are around us. It may take us awhile to reach this place but it is ours if we pursue the benefits offered to the believer. This is a virtue that as believers we must learn, it will grow character and endurance in our lives. There is no victory without opposition. Spiritual endurance will begin to set us apart and put us into the winners circle and we begin to enjoy victory.

We have the example of Gideon in Judges in the Old Testament when God called him to help save the Hebrew people, his response was that he was not equipped to be a warrior but God saw him as a mighty man of valor, able to do the job before him. He took the challenge, he was the one who stepped out having only 300 men and defeated the enemy.

Many times believers have this same picture of themselves feeling like they are inferior and unable to what they are called to do, but God has a plan for each of their lives. It takes courage like Joshua had when he took over the leadership from

Moses.

It is not necessary to have courage if we are not getting ready to do something. Courage is always linked with doing something. Many things that are done must have courage.

Rom 5:1-4 "Therefore, since we are \*justified (acquitted, declared righteous, and given a right standing with God) through faith, let us [grasp the fact that we] have [the peace of reconciliation to hold and to enjoy] peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). 2 Through Him also we have [our] access (entrance, introduction) by faith into this grace (state of God's favor) in which we [firmly and safely] stand. And let us rejoice and exult in our hope of experiencing and enjoying the glory of God. 3 Moreover [let us also be full of joy now!] let us exult and triumph in our troubles and rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that pressure and affliction and hardship produce patient and unswerving endurance. 4 And endurance (fortitude) develops maturity of character (approved faith and tried integrity). And character [of this sort] produces [the habit of] joyful and confident hope of eternal salvation." AMP

\*justified meaning righteousness or righteous will make the meaning easier for us

Rom 5:2-5 "And that's not all: We throw open our doors to God and discover at the same moment that he has already thrown open his door to us. We find ourselves standing where we always hoped we might stand—out in the wide open spaces of God's grace and glory, standing tall and shouting our praise. 3-5 There's more to come: We continue to shout our praise even when we're hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next. In alert expectancy such as this, we're never left feeling shortchanged. Quite the contrary—we can't round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit!" MESSAGE

If we could in the spirit realm see that the veil was pulled back, we would see what God has already done for us, that He has removed every obstacle or hinderance because of what was done on the cross. The door is open, take a step of faith. Standing tall and shouting out praise. If we are growing there is no trouble that can muffle our voices, it may take a season to work through, but we will be shouting our praise. God is greater even when we are hemmed in with trouble. We have examples of David and his men and their victories.

Isa 60:1-2 "Arise [from the depression and prostration in which circumstances have kept you—rise to a new life]! Shine (be radiant with the glory of the Lord), for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! 2 For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and dense darkness [all] peoples, but the Lord shall arise upon you [O Jerusalem], and His glory shall be seen

on you." AMP

**ARISE** - circumstances have to bow to the name of Jesus! The greater one is on the inside of each of us. Be the one that walks in victory taking back what the enemy has stolen, be the one that leads or changes attitudes of others. Arise and run to the battle.