

“Don’t Give Up”

Written August of 2013

Scripture Reading: II Timothy 4:7,8

Introduction

When I was given the invitation to come here tonight a few months ago I immediately began praying and asking God what He needed me to say and to speak to you for Him. A few days later God spoke to me the title, scripture reading and a small outline pertaining to the Title and that was it. In the short time that I have been preaching I have never spoken or brought a Message, that God through the Holy Spirit hasn’t anointed me to write. He has ALWAYS provided the words and the inspiration for what I speak.

I sat last night on my dad’s wife’s’ computer wondering what I was going to say tonight. I had begun fasting and praying, yet again asking God to illuminate my mind, and to anoint me with His words. My humanity began to think I will end standing up here looking foolish because I have nothing to say. But in that moment of doubt I just trusted that somehow, some way God would still be Glorified, even in my weakness, even in my deficiencies He would prevail.

God spoke to me, as He spoke to Paul that **“in our weakness, is when His Grace is sufficient”** you see **II Corinthians 12:9** is one of my favorite text; because it tells us that when **“we are weak, is when He (Christ Jesus) is strong”**. Praise God for that, and Praise God that He did give me the Message He wanted you to hear tonight. Hallelujah!!!! The irony of all this is that the title of this Message is: **“Don’t Give Up”** man I’m glad I didn’t give up on trusting God to give me the right words to speak tonight. Let’s bow our heads and invite the Holy Spirit to be here with us...

Sermon

This whole process of writing tonight’s Message, really help me to realize **how easily we sometimes GIVE UP**. My goodness we tend to rationalize and come up with every excuse under the sun, why we didn’t do something we told ourselves we were going to do. I see everyone looking at me like I’m crazy and I don’t know what I am talking about, but let’s do a little illustration so that we can better understand this statement I just made.

Illustration:

1). By a show of hands how many here made a New Year’s Resolution last year on December 31st as the last minutes of 2012 ticked away? **Almost every single person here made some kind of promise to themselves or to a loved one saying 2013 is my year and 2013 will be different.**

OK put your hands down, now I want to remind everyone that they are in church, so you must be really honest in answering the following question.

2). By a show of hands how many of the same people that raised their hands before, actually followed through and did what they said they were going to do? HONESTLY now, how many actually kept their New Year's Resolution?

Isn't it interesting that only a small percentage actually followed through with it. Don't feel bad because you actually did much better in here than the average person in the World. But here is the point of this illustration; we have all come across this at some point in your lives. **Whether it be a diet, breaking a bad habit, visiting family more, making more time for the kids, helping around the house more...in some way, shape or form we have all experienced not following through.**

If I could have a dollar for every time that I made an excuse why I didn't follow through on something, I would be a Millionaire. Not sure if there would be any other Millionaire's in here with me tonight, but I am just being REAL! **But if there are even a few people here tonight that relate to this, have you ever asked yourself WHY??**

Why is it that even though you have the best intentions, and in your heart you feel you should make a change, somehow...some way you end up still doing the wrong thing or not following through on your promise to do something. Hey don't beat yourself up if you are feeling what I am talking about. It was the Apostle Paul, the greatest evangelist of all time that said it best: ***"I know the things that I should do, but I keep doing the things that I shouldn't do"***.

Now I asked myself, why would Paul make this confession? I believe it's because God knew that we all would need to hear it tonight. Why is it that we fail to follow through; why is it that the **alcoholic** fails to stop drinking even though he/she knows their life is spiraling out of control; why is it that the **addict** convinces himself/herself this will be the last time; why is it that the **wife or girlfriend** rationalizes getting beat up and believes the man when they say it will be the last time; why is it that **people say** when I get certain things straight and fix myself up then I will come to Christ; why is it that **you being in church**, are not on FIRE for God; why is it that so many just play church instead of being the church...**Me personally I AM SICK AND TIRED OF THESE "WHY IS IT" QUESTIONS????????????????????????????????**

Life is full of excuses but do you want to know the answer to THE WHY's we just asked? My dear Brothers and Sisters, tonight I will give you one of the greatest Truths of your lives, a Truth that satan doesn't want you to know about and to understand. Turn in your Bibles to: **Mark 14:38** I guarantee you that most of you never saw what the last sentence of this verse was truly implying.

“The Spirit truly is ready, but the FLESH is weak”

There is an unseen battle in the Spiritual Dimension with our Flesh or Human Nature and the Holy Spirit is ready and willing to help us. It's our Flesh or our human nature that keeps us from God's best for us. Human Nature is the same as saying our Sin Nature. We are born into a world of sin, and without us realizing it we have gotten caught up in the nonsense of the world. We are bombarded with the latest technology, music, style and our materialistic need to make money, yet God takes a back seat. **Mark 8:36** tells us:

“What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”

Do you sit here tonight in DANGER OF LOSING YOUR SOUL? Our FLESH indeed is weak, but IF we invite Christ to help us, then and only then, will the Holy Spirit (*who is always ready*) come and strengthen us to fulfill God's Purpose. My dear Brothers and Sisters we have completely forgotten that Christ left us the “Comforter” who is the Holy Spirit to Guide us, Teach us and Help us. “Don't Give Up”

The Bible is full of examples of Men and Woman who were at one point in their lives weak in the Flesh, but God still used them mightily to fulfill His Purpose. But just imagine if they would've just **GIVEN UP!**

- What if **Moses** who was a murderer would've said: God it is just too hard to lead the people of Israel out of bondage, and would've just **GIVEN UP**. **Yet God called Moses His friend**, because he allowed the Holy Spirit to help him and guide him.
- What if **Ruth** would've stayed in Moab worshipping their idols, which is where she had her family, friends and it was her comfort zone. What if she decided NOT to listen Naomi when she asked her to befriend Boaz and had just **GIVEN UP**? She would've never been the great-great grandmother of King David and in the **blood-line of Jesus**.
- What if **David** would've run from the Giant named Goliath saying he is too big and scary. Or how about when Saul was trying to kill him, David would've said you know being the next future king is just too hard, just too complicated. What if King David the adulterer would've never repented and just **GIVEN UP**? **Yet God called David a man after His own heart.**

- What if **Jesus Christ** when he was in the Garden of Gethsemane after He said: ***“Father if all possible let this cup pass from me”*** just got up dusted Himself off and went home to Nazareth because it was going to be too hard to take the weight of sin on His shoulders. What if when on the **Via Dolorosa** when He fell to the ground under the weight of the Cross He would’ve said; you know **I changed my mind I GIVE UP** its just too hard to do this for Mankind...

Oh my dear Brothers and Sisters even Christ fell under the weight of the Cross, but He got back up again, not in His own strength but by the strength of the Holy Spirit. These are all **important Biblical examples** of Men and Women who didn’t GIVE UP, **but in closing** I would like to share another story in this century of someone who God didn’t Give up on.

Personal Testimony

My dear Brothers and Sisters I am the person of this story on August 15, 2005 I was Born Again. God NEVER gave up on me, which is why I ask the Holy Spirit every second of the day to help me to NEVER GIVE UP on God. If God through the Holy Spirit can change me, He can change anybody.

“Let your Test be your Testimony”

Our Scripture Reading tell us that: ***“we must continue to fight the good fight of Faith”*** this is a battle that we are in between our Flesh and the Will of God. It was a long journey for me to get back to God, but I got there and every day I ask the Holy Spirit to give me strength to continue fighting the good fight so that one day my Crown will also be waiting, not only for me, but for all those who God allowed me to minister to.

Altar Call

Every one of you has a great Purpose for the Kingdom of God. DON’T GIVE UP, because God will NEVER give up on you. It doesn’t matter the circumstances that have brought you here tonight, it doesn’t matter path you have traveled to be sitting here tonight; what matters is whether or not you are going to GIVE UP or are you going to take a stand for God tonight. As the final song Long Journey (*Viaje Largo*) plays please meditate on the words and let them speak to your soul, and I invite you to come forward and allow the Holy Spirit to make the necessary changes in your life, so that you to can fulfill your Purpose for Him and His Kingdom!

If you want proof that God still loves you, remember this one text: ***“For God so loved you, that He gave you His only begotten Son. So that IF you believe, you wouldn’t perish but have everlasting life”***

He loves you too much to give up on you!