

Never Give Up

(Never Surrender)

1Samuel 15 - Story of Saul being instructed to destroy Amalekites.

Not first time Israel met Amalekites

First encounter led to this

First encounter gives great example of perseverance

Exodus 17:8-13

Just a small story about Moses teaches much about perseverance

Not only staying at the task, but help of others

Even "great" Moses unable to accomplish it alone

Often it is easier to give up than to keep trying

Support of others can make the difference

Consider other examples of perseverance

2Corinthians 12:7-9 Paul's persistence

Asked the Lord three times to remove the thorn in the flesh.

Even after this Lord refused but Paul was satisfied with the answer

Paul's determination to silence Judaizing teachers though they persecuted him everywhere

Support of brethren in Philippi encouraged him

Acts 4 Peter & John arrested for preaching, threatened & released

Acts 5 Arrested again; this time beaten, warned & released.

Acts 12 Peter is arrested, cast into prison, wonder his thoughts were?

Whether it was worth the effort.

Wouldn't the Lord understand if he just quit?

Prayer of brethren on his behalf gave strength

Examples of perseverance; of men who would not say quit.

They are "success stories."

But their success depended upon perseverance

Their perseverance was possible through support of others

We Need That Same Perseverance

We recognize this in every field of endeavor:

Education study many years to attain a goal

Work up the corporate ladder many years to attain a position

Perseverance requires...

Personal Commitment

Matthew 6:33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Personal Conviction

Acts 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

2Peter 1:3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

2Thessalonians 1:8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Personal Knowledge

2Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

Must know Bible, live by gospel & show others, by example, how much better it is to be Christian than in world

Perseverance despite set-backs

We will not succeed in every case; many will reject our efforts

1Samuel 8:7 The Lord said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them."

Gospel Saves

Romans 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

We are the ones who carry it to the world

Matthew 28:19 *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,*

Ralph Joiner