

*Never Accept Defeat*

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*All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.*

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

*Introduction* . . . . . 5

*Chapter 1* . . . . . 7

*STANDING FAST IN THE FAITH*

*Chapter 2* . . . . . 12

*WINNERS NEVER QUIT*

*Chapter 3* . . . . . 17

*THE BODY OF CHRIST: POSITIONED FOR  
TRIUMPH*

*CONCLUSION* . . . . . 23



## INTRODUCTION

Let me tell you a story about two close friends. One of them, Randy, was involved in a very serious accident that left him paralyzed. The damage was so severe that it seemed as if he would not even be able to use a wheelchair.

Jeff, Randy's friend, visited every day for nearly three months and checked up on Randy's wife and children. But at one point, Randy stopped eating because he wanted to die. When he heard of it, Jeff became angry and said, "Okay, you quitter, quit. Let someone else marry your wife and bring up your children. That's it! I am not coming back, you quitter."

With that, Jeff walked out of the room. Then, as soon as Randy heard the elevator doors close, he called the nurse and asked for a bologna sandwich. "I want to get well just to get even with him for being so unkind."

That exchange marked a decisive moment for Randy. Soon, he was able to get around in a

wheelchair, and he became a great soul winner and preacher of the Gospel. At one event where he was a guest speaker, Jeff introduced Randy by saying, "This is a *real* man talking to you from this wheelchair."

Winners never quit and quitters never win. In this booklet, we will see how the Word of God shows us that as Christians, we must never accept defeat, because according to the Finished Work that is the same as believing a lie. The devil, the father of lies, is the defeated one. So no matter what sight dictates, in Christ we are already winners. Therefore we can say, "In all these things, we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us."

## *Chapter One*

# STANDING FAST IN THE FAITH

“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

“Let all your things be done with charity”  
(1 Corinthians 16:13-14).

In the Greek, the verbs in this verse are all progressive in the present tense, written in an active voice with the imperative mood. All of this indicates a continued state of attitude. Paul is telling his readers this: “Watch very carefully. Do not fall into the temptation of sin. Be careful and alert. If you will go through this process, you will be powerful and steadfast, and you will be enabled to stand fast in the faith.

“Be like real men. Stand firmly on the truth, and don’t quit.”

The whole principle being expressed by Paul in 1 Corinthians 16 is that we are to stand like men. We are to never accept defeat.

God never made us to be defeated. We were

not made to quit. We may fall down, but we were not made to stay down. We may get lonely, but we must never quit. Depression may come, but we will not quit. Our hearts may get broken, but we do not quit. In the midst of sickness, we do not quit. We may be persecuted in the worst way, but we do not quit. Financial disaster and tragedy may come, but we will not quit.

### *Faith Heroes*

Abraham never accepted defeat, even as he approached one hundred years of age and still had no son. Moses failed when he killed a man, but he did not quit, though he spent forty years on the backside of the desert. Elijah fainted for a moment, spiritually speaking, but when the angel woke him, he got up and went on, refusing to quit. In 2 Kings 6, Elisha was surrounded by his enemies, but he would not quit. The angels with him far outnumbered those against him.

Ezra and Nehemiah, despite the sad spiritual condition of Israel, purposed not to quit. Mordecai, Esther's uncle, was greatly mistreated and set up for a hanging. But, for the sake of his people, he would not quit.

There are so many examples throughout the Bible of weak men standing strong in the Lord.



Isaiah was at first a preacher who did not know the Lord. Still, he continued to serve God the best he knew how, and he did not quit. Ultimately, in Isaiah 6, we see this prophet getting to know his God. He saw the Lord high and lifted up and was filled with the presence of God.

Jeremiah was the weeping prophet. When he was first called as a young man, Jeremiah tried to convince God that He had chosen the wrong man (Jeremiah 1:6). He talked to God frankly, telling his Lord that he wanted to go out into the woods, let his beard grow, and stay away from everyone else for the rest of his life (Jeremiah 9:1-2). In Jeremiah 20:9, he said he was through with preaching. But the Word of God was like fire in his bones; he could not keep it inside.

Jeremiah went through so much. He had to stay behind when many in Israel were led off to captivity in Babylon. Still, he never quit. He was strong. He stood in the faith and let all things be done with charity, decently and in order.

### *Getting Beyond Failure*

Think of people such as Ruth, David, and Solomon. None of them would quit.

Though her mother-in-law tried to discourage her, Ruth refused to go back to her familiar

homeland. She chose to follow Naomi to dwell with the people of God. Instead of listening to discouraging voices, she listened to God and He greatly honored her.

Throughout his life, David failed and got up, failed again and got up, failed some more and got up. David never quit. Solomon failed even more than his father David did. Yet, in Proverbs 24:16 we find the secret of Solomon's success:

"A just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief."

You fall, you get up.

You fall, you get up.

You fall, you get up.

You fall, you get up.

You fall, you get up.

You fall, you get up.

You fall, you get up.

There we have it: Seven times you fall, seven times you get up. Here, the number seven is used as an idiom of speech. What it represents is that no matter how many times you fall down, you can always get back up and go on. Solomon knew this firsthand. After years and years of terrible failures, he finished his life by writing Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. God did not give up

on him, and Solomon—a winner in God's eyes—simply would not quit.

## *Chapter Two*

# WINNERS NEVER QUIT

Great missionaries are men who know they must never to accept defeat.

C.T. Studd came down with a terrible disease that kept him in severe pain. Still, he would not quit. He ministered on two continents and lived well into his eighties.

Hudson Taylor experienced failure for sixteen years. Yet, he went on and established the China Inland Mission. David Livingstone faced all kinds of persecution, hardship, and heartache. He even got lost in the middle of Africa—but he would not quit!

One of the great principles we must learn in our lifetime is this: Quitters are always losers and those who do not quit are always winners. The Bible college student should not quit in his freshman year. The sophomore should never quit. The junior should never quit. The senior should never quit. He should complete his

course of studies, being led by God all the way to graduation.

When it comes to marriage, neither party should ever quit. Remember when you do get married that you are being joined to another soul. It is vital that you never quit your marriage.

Think of the prophet Hosea. His wife left him and became a prostitute, but Hosea never quit on her. His love for her stayed strong. Hosea went to the slave market, bought his wife on the auction block, and brought her home. He loved her and was reconciled to her. Their relationship became an example of the way God loves Israel and reconciled her to Himself.

### *Grace Overcomers*

When we know the grace of God, when we realize that his grace remains and that His love never changes, there shouldn't be a single thing that can make us quit. With an understanding of His provision of love, and by understanding how to go forward in Jesus Christ's mercy, there is simply no reason to quit.

Why should I quit?

If I am weak, then I just have to accept grace. If something comes up, I just have to receive God's love. If failure comes in, I will accept His

forgiveness. If I encounter heartache, I will simply accept the compassion of Christ's fellowship. The principle is this: *Never ever quit.*

If you lose the loyalty of those you love, don't quit.

Think of Peter. He kicked and fought and struggled with God's plan for his life. He fought as much as he could fight. He had every reason to quit, especially after he denied Christ three times, because he was so ashamed. But Peter received grace and mercy, and he did not quit.

Paul was stoned and was left for dead in Lystra (Acts 14). He suffered with a thorn in his flesh (2 Corinthians 12). Did he quit? No. He refused to accept defeat.

### *Friends Who Stand True*

"It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling" (Proverbs 20:3).

"Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;

"Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow" (Isaiah 1:16,17).

Of course, there are some things we should

quit. The things we do that cause contention are things we should quit. Job 3:17 instructs us to cease from troubling others. Now, that is definitely something we should quit doing.

Friendship, however, does not quit. People who love God and love their pastor do not quit their church. People who love the Body do not quit the Body. They draw near, and they refuse to quit.

There will always be something trying to get us to quit. There will always be someone who wants us to live in defeat. Armies of demons try to put us in situations that will cause us to withdraw, get weary, and faint. The powers of darkness want to infect us so we will quit.

Jonathan was placed between his friend David and his father Saul, and He became an amazing friend to David, and he never quit being David's friend, but he never quit loving his daddy. He was caught between two great men. Jonathan understood Saul's pride and arrogance, and still he went into battle with him, where the two died together.

In the Bible, Jonathan is not always associated with greatness. Yet he was probably one of the most wonderful and amazing servants of God. While Jonathan stayed true to his father, in

terms of going to battle with him and loving him, he still would not quit integrity, loyalty, honesty, and veracity toward his friend David.

### *A Victorious Destiny*

Consider Samson—a miserable failure because of his weakness with women, even though God gave him much power and strength. He sinned with Delilah and lost his hair and his power with God. His eyes were put out and the Philistines brought him into their pagan temple to be mocked (Judges 16:25-30). But God had a plan. Samson's hair was growing back, and so was his power. God did not quit using Samson.

Samson didn't know how much his hair had grown out when he asked a lad to lead him to the pillars of the temple. There, he prayed and brought down the temple, killing more Philistines in his death than in all of his lifetime.

Yes, Samson sinned. He refused to repent about his situation with Delilah, and he was made a slave and blinded because of it. But Samson did not quit. In the end, he triumphed for God.



### *Chapter Three*

## THE BODY OF CHRIST: POSITIONED FOR TRIUMPH

Faithful men do not quit. Notice, I did not say that *good* men don't quit; rather, *faithful* men do not quit. Grace-filled men and women do not quit. People who have the Spirit of the living God refuse to accept defeat. I am not saying that we will not become weak and fail. I am not saying that there will never be times when we will want to quit. I am not saying we won't ever be wounded or hurt. The bottom line, however, is this: We refuse to quit.

God's righteousness never gets offended. God's love never lives in fear. God's grace never lives in striving or works. God's mercy never lives in condemnation. God's forgiveness never remembers the past. God's joy always has strength in weakness. Those who have the faith of God know that they are going to overcome. God tells them that they will overcome, so they

know that they will!

It is so crucial for those who come to Bible college not to quit. There will be trials and tests—we are supposed to have them. God cannot use us unless He takes us through trials. He preplanned for your trials and He prepaid for your errors. So no matter how severe the test, we can trust God and not accept defeat.

### *Walled in by God's Fire*

“For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.

“Ho, ho, come forth, and flee from the land of the north, saith the LORD: for I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the heaven, saith the LORD.

“Deliver thyself, O Zion, that dwellest with the daughter of Babylon.

“For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye” (Zechariah 2:5-8).

I have made up my mind that the devil cannot knock me out. He cannot even touch me because of the wall of fire God has put around me.

A wall of fire surrounds believers who love

the Word. That wall is positional truth—categorical doctrine from the Word of God. This truth means that the fire of the living Word of God and the fire of the Holy Spirit is all around us. There is no place for the devil to get at us. Our wrong decisions may give Satan an opening here and there, but there is no way he can touch our destiny. He cannot touch our provision. He cannot touch our purpose. He cannot touch us to make us weaker than we already are. The devil just cannot do it.

God's people just do not quit. The more Satan fights us, the tougher we get. Psalm 84:7 speaks of us going from strength to strength. In Romans 1:17, we go from faith to faith. In 2 Corinthians 3:18, we go from glory to glory. We may even add love to love. This is how it goes for the child of God.

### *Divine Reversals*

A drunken driver was in a terrible accident. He was dying and the doctors didn't give him much hope, but his wife and two children were praying for him. I went to see him, and God led me to tell him, "Now, you could quit and just die, or, you could come to Jesus, confess your sins, and start fighting the good fight of faith.

Why don't you make up your mind that you are going to come out of this place, face the music, and go all the way with God as a husband and a dad?"

The man could hardly speak, but he squeezed my hand and nodded his head, "Yes."

Three months later, he was out of the hospital, praising God. Here's a guy who was guilty and filled with shame. He was terribly weak and afflicted. Yet, he refused to quit.

A woman had lived for seventeen years with an alcoholic husband. She attended a revival meeting that lasted until midnight and then went home to ask her husband for forgiveness. Her husband was stunned by the depth of her love. He got right with God that morning, and they have been going strong for thirty-five years. That woman refused to quit on her marriage.

Think of the apostle John on the Isle of Patmos, which was an asylum for the insane. There, according to Church history, he was tortured and placed in hot oil three times while in exile on this island. There, Jesus Christ came to him, saying, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty;" (Revelation 1:8).

The entire book of Revelation was communicated to John while he was a prisoner on that island. Did John quit? No. Instead, he received the final chapter in the canon of Scripture in the midst of severe and intense suffering and depression.

Depression cannot defeat us. Fatigue will not make us quit. The power of God's Spirit quickens us and enables us to go on. The most beautiful thing in the world is to know that God wants us to be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58). He wants us to thank Him for the victory we have in Jesus Christ.

### *Fellowship in God's Light*

I am so thankful for the people in our ministry. These are people who refuse to accept defeat. They never miss services unless they are on vacation or sick. Visitors come on Sunday nights and Wednesday nights and find our chapel packed. They wonder if there is some special event going on. The house is full, and they cannot figure it out.

Our house, God's house, is full because of the Word of love, the Word of grace, the Word of forgiveness, the Word of edification, the Word of

conviction, and the Word of power. Fellowship in the light of the Body of Christ is taught and lived here.

Who wants to miss the great things God wants to communicate to His people in this day and age? With this going on, few people want to stay home to catch a television program. The best place in the world is to be in church worshipping in song and in spirit with the Body of Christ.

A couple started coming to our church about six months ago. They were having problems. "We never got along," the husband said. "Now, we just have so much fun in church together. We worship together and hold hands in the church services. We have never had this in our lives. This is the life!"

The reason is this: We are part of a church that will not quit—people who will never accept defeat.

## CONCLUSION

As a ministry, we will maintain our vision. We will not quit our outreaches to our neighborhood, our city, our state, and our nation. We will continue to go into all the world as Christ told us to.

Christian leaders have visited our church and have asked us to teach them about evangelism. Our concept of reaching the lost is simple: We go and go and go. We just keep going and look to edify people in every realm. We choose not to quit.

Businessmen can apply the same principles. When they put in their hours, giving the work all of their effort, and refuse to quit—God will bless.

If you are the kind of person who withdraws into yourself, remember that Christ is your life, and for you to live is Christ. Streaks of anger, resentment, condemnation, and self-deception are from hell. Step across the line and stop being

that way. Refuse to accept the defeat that Satan designed for you.

Choose Christ.

Choose His life.

Choose to win.