

Never Give Up

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Hebrews 12:3-29.

B. The author's subject: never give up.

C. The problem is our tendency to grow weary or faint-hearted.

D. The Christian life is never intended to be a picnic—it is bound to be rough. Christ endured trial and so will we since the servant is not greater than its master is.

II. Reasons why the difficulties must come to us.

A. Trials manifest to us the discipline of love.

1. Even though we have had it rough, it could be much worse.

2. Hardships prove our son-ship.

a. What God sends is exactly what we need.

b. God does not ask us to rejoice in the trouble but in what the trouble does for us.

c. God sends these things and therefore they come for our blessing.

d. Hang tough—the fulfillment of dark days will follow. (Isaiah 54)

B. Trials allow opportunity for the demonstration of adequacy.

1. The world is not impressed with Christians who simply stop doing something.

2. The world is impressed with Christians who live a life that they cannot.

3. Trial allows for an opportunity for strength.

4. It allows for a life of concern.

5. It arrests bitterness and flippancy.

6. We can come completely accepted before God by the cross and cannot fail because of it.

C. Trials expose to us the demarcation of truth.

1. Let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken.

2. The cycles of tribulation are God's way of showing man what is passing and what is permanent. (I Timothy)

3. We are seeing more emptiness than ever before because of trust placed in institutions, money and science.

4. What we are going through is designed to destroy what can be destroyed or purify what cannot be destroyed.

Application questions:

1. What are some of the most challenging trials you have faced and how have you responded to them?

2. Do you wish you had responded differently to the trials you have faced? How can we take comfort in the Scriptures that our trials are for a greater purpose?

3. How would you comfort others going through trials in light of the message? Would you tell a person that he must have been sinning as Job's friends did? Would you approach it differently? Explain.
