

Faith Christian Fellowship
Sunday, May 20, 2012
I Am Not a Victim 12
Never Give Up!

Text: Romans 8:37 NLT No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. Gal 6:9

This is the Year of Victory. Our emphasis is specifically “overcome the victim mentality – I am not a victim!” Bad things happen, the question is, what are you gonna do? When you feel like a victim, how do you get to victory? Take up your cross, grab hold of God’s vision for you, and today: never give up!!!?

♥ Faith is simple but not easy

- Believe it. Heb 4:2
- Say it. 2 Cor 4:13
- Plan for victory. James 2:25-26.

♥ Having done all, stand!!!! Eph 6:13-14.

- Don’t fight people. Love people, But never quit the fight of faith.
- “Never give in. Never give in. Never, never, never, never - in nothing, great or small, large or petty -- never give in, except to convictions of honor and good sense. Never yield to force. Never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy.” Winston Churchill Oct 29, 1941
- Perseverance, consistency, endurance – a very important ingredient in the fight of faith . 2Ti 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 1 Corinthians 15:57-58 / Hebrews 10:35-36

♥ What causes people to quit?

- **Weights and sins** Hebrews 12:1 (MSG) It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running--and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. (NLT) let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up.
 - What is your parasite – sapping your life while being intimately attached to you – part of your identity? What (or who) is the weight that slows you down? Is it time?
- **Discouragement** : disheartened and dismayed.
 - Satan tries to convince the Christian that he does not have the strength, determination, or talent to fulfill the will of God. He uses difficult circumstances and negative words.

- Deuteronomy 1:21, 28 / Num 13:31-33 The land is yours. Take it! “Don’t be discouraged!” Notice verse 28. An evil report that kept them out of the Promised Land. They believed a lie.
- Numbers 21:4-9 The way is almost always long and hard. Symptoms of discouragement show
 - ◆ Speaking against God is always a bad idea.
 - ◆ Blaming leadership never works.
 - ◆ Big danger: longing for Egypt
 - ◆ Despising the Word: The Word is our answer, don’t gripe - read!
- 1 Samuel 30:6 Even in the face of difficult odds and friends who hated him, , David encouraged himself (KJV) in the Lord.

➤ **Heart problems.** Mk 4:13-20 gives us a short list:

- Satan’s lies of unbelief – “has God really said...” Take a look at all your Yebutts.
 - Affliction and persecution for the Word’s sake, ‘You’re no fun to be around anymore...’
 - The cares of this world, “I’m just too busy with...” What pulls you out of your prayer time, just this once?
 - The deceitfulness of riches, “If I can just get my car paid off then I can...” What decisions are you making based on money? What does God think about your priorities?
 - The desires for other things. “Well it’s not a bad thing, but...” Idols come in many packages, prestige, approval, adrenaline...
- Gal 6:9 (NLT) So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.
- Don’t get tired. ekkakeō Luke 18:1 / Ephesians 3:13 / 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 / 2 Corinthians 4:1
 - The only requirement for reaping: “if we don’t give up!” ekluo, to turn loose. Don’t turn loose, hang on.

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

Philippians 3:12