



DGM Message Title: Do Not Give Up!

Concept: Why do we have to go through hard times?

Message Summary: God knows what we want, but He also knows what we need. Faith does not make all things easy. It makes all things possible. Everything you ever wanted is just on the other side of “not giving in” and “not giving up.”

Scriptural References:

- Hebrews 10:32-36 NKJV
- Luke 18:29-30 NKJV

Key Points:

- This is the quiet before the storm.
- Things that were difficult will soon become easy. Things that were impossible will soon become possible.
 - It's the same set of circumstances and the same issues
 - Suddenly a lightbulb will go off
 - We will realize that God's got it and we can get through it
- We are about to step into that new season
- Pause to recognize this. We often get so busy that we miss these things
- If we slow down, we can celebrate them as they happen
- The Psalmist would pause, often, and say “Selah.” This means we pause and reflect for a moment.
- “When I pause, and I think about His goodness... when I think about where He's brought me from... where I started and where I am... I can't help but give Him thanks and praise!” – BG
- Sometimes we have to stop thinking about what's next and just thank Him for where we are right now.
- God brought us through, before. He will do it again, and again, and again. It's what He does.

Hebrews 10:32 NKJV

- Remember when God opened your eyes, and you stopped existing and started living.
- Remember the spiritual battles that God brought you through
- The fact that Satan fights you so hard is proof-positive that God did something genuine in your life.
 - The only reason he fights you is because you're a threat!

- If Satan isn't present in your life, it's probably because you're running the same direction that he is.
- We don't want to suffer for Christ, but the Bible says no sacrifice, no reward.
- We will all have to go out on a limb. That's where the best fruit is.
- You Endured!
 - To get to where God wants you, there's going to be some hard knocks, some bruises, and some disappointment.
 - Endurance is not doing what you thought you could do, but doing what you never thought you could do!
- When we look back over our lives, we wonder how we got to where we are. But that's the miracle! Our results leave no explanation... BUT GOD!
 - If it weren't for God, I'd be dead in my grave.
- When God's words start coming alive in our hearts, the devil comes IMMEDIATELY to steal it. Why?
 - The last type of church Satan wants you in is a Word church.
 - He doesn't mind a shouting church or a worship church.
 - He will do anything to keep you from a church that teaches the Word.
 - Because there is more power in just one word from God than all the power in Satan's domain, combined.
 - Because when we get the Word in our heart, when we let the roots grow, fruit will become inevitable and we will become indestructible and unstoppable!
 - Satan wants us to play church, not dig into the Book with the power!
- Satan doesn't bring suffering to make us strong. He does it to make us quit.
 - You didn't come this far to only come this far!
 - Life may be tough, but so are you!

Hebrews 10:33 NKJV

- "There is only one way to avoid criticism: do nothing, say nothing, and be nothing." Aristotle
- Some of us spend our whole lives avoiding criticism, but it's an honorable position for people to take issue with your issue.
- "You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life." – Winston Churchill
 - If you're going to stand up for something in your life, someone won't like it.
 - We should live our lives for an audience of One.
 - He will say "well done, my good and faithful servant."
- At this time in culture, Christianity got the blame for everything that went wrong in Roman culture.
- Those who lost someone to the persecution and sympathized with them and visited them and tried to help their families were also included, here.
 - They realized that they were all in this together.

Hebrews 10:34 NKJV

- Compassion only asks one question: what if you were me?

- Your bondage may not be mine, but whatever your poison, I want you to know that I care.
- You know something is going on in someone's life when everything is taken from them – they have no possessions or freedom left – and they still wake up every morning with a smile on their face.
- Forgiveness does not ignore justice. It gives it to God.
- The only way a person could have survived these situations is if they had some secret, inside information.
 - Momentary afflictions.
 - Pain is temporary. Quitting lasts forever.
- Story:
 - A friend asked to loan another friend a bit of money for just a couple weeks. It was a sure thing.
 - A couple weeks later, the money had not been paid back.
 - Never loan out more than you can forgive, because relationships are more important than money.
 - After a few months, a choice had to be made: hold on to the loss or give it into God's hands, knowing He would reward.
 - Your brain may fight to let go, but deep down inside, you know what is right.
 - With God, not everything is a loss

Luke 18:29-30 NKJV

- Our short life isn't long enough to contain all the reward God has for us.
 - Ten-thousand years into eternity, God will still be rewarding us for what we invested, here.
- Story (cont.):
 - Last year, this person purchased a rental property for a family member, but he ended up selling it, instead.
 - He had forgotten about the debt from 10 years ago.
 - After he sold it, he thanked God.
 - God immediately reminded him about the rite of collection from 10 years ago.
 - The person grossed over 10 times what he lost.
 - God delays, but he never forgets!
- The things we hold on to may be keeping us from our reward. If we just let it go, give it to God, it will position us to do what He wants us to do.

Hebrews 10:35 NKJV

- People will ridicule you, lie to you, steal from you... but don't ever lose your confidence in God.
- "Confidence – knowing that God got your back!" – Anonymous
- When people do these things, God's got you. So, don't focus on them!
 - Let go and let God handle it!
 - The best way to get even is to be a bigger success!
- Confidence in God is the one thing the devil doesn't want you to have.

- All that's happened... all that's lost... don't lose your confidence!
- When life puts you into a difficult situation, don't throw up your hands and say, "why me?" Put up your hands, worship God, and say "TRY ME!"
- This type of confidence can only come from God, from a relationship with God.
- God can be counted on to keep His promises. Can you be counted on to wait until He delivers?

Hebrews 10:36 NKJV

- We think we need answers. But, God knows we need stamina, fortitude, stick-to-it-tiveness.
- Endurance is the power to withstand pain or hardship. It's the ability to continue despite fatigue, strain, or other adverse conditions.
- Endurance boils down to a simple choice: What you want now vs what you want most.
- In some areas of our lives, the fruit was low-hanging. But other times, the fruit was high up.
 - Everyone has that area: money, relationships, loneliness, self-image, bad habits...
 - Only if we want it enough, only if we stick with God long enough, only if we love God hard enough, will we get these things.
- God says it's not good for you to get everything easy, so some things will require endurance.
- God knows what we want, but He also knows what we need.
- Faith does not make all things easy. It makes all things possible.
- "With God, nothing will be impossible" DOES NOT EQUAL "With God, everything is easy."
- Everything you ever wanted is just on the other side of "not giving in" and "not giving up."
- It took Jesus three days to get back what He lost. It may take us a little time, too.
- Hang in there, and trust the same God that worked at the cross, and you will receive back everything that you lost.