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Series: True Grit

**Message Title:** Never Give Up! (part 1)

**Message & Scripture Highlights:**

Have a few people read the following scriptures:

**2 Peter 1:5**

And besides this, using all diligence, add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge.

**James 1:2-4**

<sup>2</sup> Consider it wholly joyful, my brethren, whenever you encounter trials *or* fall into various temptations.

<sup>3</sup> Be assured *and* understand that the trial *and* proving of your faith bring out endurance *and* patience.

<sup>4</sup> But let endurance *and* steadfastness *and* patience have full play *and* do a thorough work, so that you may be perfectly and fully developed [with no defects], lacking in nothing.

**Galatians 6:9**

And let us not lose heart *and* grow weary *and* faint in acting nobly *and* doing right, for in due time *and* at the appointed season we shall reap, if we do not loosen *and* relax our courage *and* faint.

Discussion Part 1:

Discuss the difference between talent and tenacity. Talk about the difference between infatuation and endurance. Notice in Galatians 6:9 that the promise of reaping is not to the strong, intelligent, talented or good looking. It's to those who have grit. Discuss.

S.Marshall thoughts:

Its interesting that God instructs us to add to our faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge. You do it, the Bible says. In layman's terms, God says, add grit to your faith, and make sure it is according to calculations, advice, counsel, with knowledge. Not random grit.

Have someone read:

**Proverbs 24:16**

For a righteous man falls seven times, and rises again.

**Proverbs 12:1**

He who hates reproof and correction is stupid.

Discussion Part 2:

Falling isn't failing. It's refusing to get up. Talk about Christ's resurrection spirit in us.

Stephen Marshall Thoughts:

We have no righteousness of our own so being right is not mandatory, but never giving up is an essential attitude. That's not to say that we don't need course correction, and reproof's of instruction along the way. As the saying goes, we all need help, but only wise/smart people get help.

### **Life Application:**

Each one in the group decide an area where you've been failing to exercise grit, but would like to. Tell your circle of friends what it is. It could be: wanting to read more; wanting to not eat so many cookies; going for a walk in the park everyday; calling family that you've procrastinated on doing. Just pick your one thing. Tell the group and decide this week, you are going to exercise true grit and do it. Connect the action to your faith so if you're reading a book, make it about Philippians 4:8 and thinking on whatever is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, etc. If it's not eating cookies all week, tie it to your faith in Philippians 4:13 that says you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. (Purely coincidence that both faith ties were in Philippians 4)

### **Now Pray The Word:**

Get someone (or a few people) to lead out in prayer based on the Truth talked about. Pray according to the above scriptures:

*“Dear Jesus we know that the trying of our faith works our patience, and we are to let patience have the full work in our lives so that we can be made perfect, according to Your will. We choose to count it all joy when we have to endure, and exercise our patience. Help us Lord! Help us to be more like You, and see beyond the momentary circumstances. Help us to not lose heart or grow weary in well doing. We add courage to our faith. Jesus let the fruit of the Spirit come out in our lives expressed as long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith. For You are our true Source of life. ...” (Continue to pray specifically for one another's needs ...)*