

Friday

Read Galatians 6:9. Where are you tempted to give up? Look at the Four Characteristics of People Who Don't Quit (on page 2). In which of the four are you strongest? Weakest?

One of the four is "continual prayer". Spend some extra time in prayer today asking God to strengthen you in the area(s) mentioned above where you are weakest. Ask Him to help you not to give up in that specific area where you sometimes want to throw in the towel.

Saturday

Look back over the meditations and do any you may have missed. Meditate on the weekly memory verse. Please pray for God to bless the weekend services as we continue the "Rebuilding My Life" series and discuss how to rebuild our spiritual lives, both individually and as a church! Thanks!

Prayer Updates

Home with the Lord

Keep Jill Hazelton close in prayer as she grieves the loss of her mother, **Norma Anderline**, described by Gary, Jill's husband, as "the most unselfish woman he has ever known". Jill expresses, "There is nothing like a mother's love." Please remember their entire family in prayer, especially for Will to be comforted, Norma's husband of 62 years.

Heartfelt prayer is extended to Dennis and Julie Jacobsen as they have both lost their fathers this past week, **J.D. Jacobsen** on 2/12 and Julie's father, **Jack Emmert**, on 2/18.

Please remember Guy Routley in prayer, his daughter Lisa Powell, also sons Brandon and Eric, as the life of Guy's precious wife, **Tamara Routley**, is remembered at her memorial Sunday, March 2 at 3pm.

Hospitalized & surgeries this past week...

Anna Workman — age 3, breathing difficulties	Bobbette Moore — surgery
Charles Whitney — RCU	Chris Weeks — knee surgery 2/26
Christine Garbo — critical care, hospitalized in Southern California	
Claudie Hood — took a fall, no breaks, but in a lot of pain	
Dorothy Driscoll — testing	Duard Teixeira — Alzheimer's complications
Ethan Winans (age 4) — hernia surgery repair	Howard Mettler — testing
Leslie Douglas — procedure at UCSF	Norma Teixeira — testing
Robert Bowman — testing	Shirley Ellis — heart valve infection
Shirley Starrett — pneumonia	Stan Stewart — surgery 2/2
Tom Hudson — recovery from liver transplant	Viola Fellows — just asks for our prayers

Recent hospitalizations/surgeries: Bailey Ryan, Charles "Bobby" Spann, Grant Smith, Irene McCarty, Jane Dawson, Kirsten Palmquist

Hospice care: Adrienne Bresnahan-Gomes, Marcie Murphy (Leona Sweeney's daughter)

We want to provide pastoral support...

Please call 465-3395 when someone is hospitalized, scheduled for surgery, becomes a shut-in, or in special need. Prayer support is available through our pastors and numerous prayer groups — call 689-9400. Please pick up a Prayer Update at the Information Desk or Welcome Center. **Subscribe to the Prayer Update: www.tlc.org/profiles**



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PART 6:

Don't Give Up!

February 23 & 24, 2008 • René Schlaepfer

Nehemiah 6

1. Keep going in spite of _____

"When word came to Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall and not a gap was left in it — though up to that time I had not set the doors in the gates, [they] sent me this message: 'Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono.'" *Nehemiah 6:1,2*

Nehemiah's response: "I sent messengers to them with this reply: 'I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?' **Four times** they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer." *Neh. 6:3,4*

2. Keep going in spite of _____

"Then, the fifth time, Sanballat sent his aide to me... in his hand was an unsealed letter: ... **It is reported** among the nations — and **Geshem says** it is true — that you and the Jews are plotting to revolt, and therefore you are building the wall. Moreover, **according to these reports** you are about to become their king... Now this report will get back to the king; so come, let us confer together." *Nehemiah 6:5-7*

Nehemiah's response: "I sent him this reply: 'Nothing like what you are saying is happening; **you are just making it up** out of your head.' They were all trying to **frighten** us, thinking, 'Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed.' But I **prayed**, 'Now strengthen my hands.'" *Nehemiah 6:8-9 (See Matthew 5:11,12)*

3. Keep going in spite of _____

"One day I went to the house of Shemaiah... He said, 'Let us meet in the house of God, inside the temple, and let us close the temple doors, because men are coming **to kill you** — by night they are coming **to kill you**.'" *Nehemiah 6:10*

Nehemiah's response: "But I said, 'Should a man like me run away? Or should one like me go into the temple to save his life? **I will not go!**'" *Nehemiah 6:11*

"I realized that **God had not sent him...**" *Nehemiah 6:12*

"He had been hired to **intimidate** me..." *Nehemiah 6:13*

Because Nehemiah refused to quit...

"The wall was built in fifty-two days!" *Nehemiah 6:15*

4 Characteristics of People Who Don't Quit:

1. Compelling _____

"I am carrying on a **great project**..." *Nehemiah 6: 3b*

Great lives are produced by a commitment to a _____

2. Clear _____

"They were scheming to harm me..." *Nehemiah 6: 2*

"They were all trying to frighten us..." *Nehemiah 6: 9*

"I realized that God had not sent him..." *Nehemiah 6: 12*

"If you lack wisdom, ask God..." *James 1:5*

3 Continual _____

"But I **prayed**, 'Now strengthen my hands.'" *Nehemiah 6: 9b*

"Jesus told his disciples... they should **always pray and not give up**." *Luke 18:1*

4. Courageous _____

"**Four times** they sent me the same message, and **each time** I gave them the **same answer**." *Nehemiah 6: 4*

"Remember Tobiah and Sanballat, O my God, because of what they have done; remember also the **prophetess Noadiah** and the **rest of the prophets** who have been trying to intimidate me." *Nehemiah 6:14 (See Nehemiah 13)*

"Should a man like me run away? ...I will not!" *Nehemiah 6:11*

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest **if we do not give up**." *Galatians 6:9*

"Opposition is to be expected when God's will is carried out!" –
Chuck Swindoll

"Press on. Nothing can take the place of persistence. Talent will not. Nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not. Unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not. The world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are the overwhelming power." – *Calvin Coolidge*

Monday

Please read Nehemiah 6:1-15. As you think of Nehemiah's story so far, what has stood out to you? How has this impacted you?

What did you learn from the study of Nehemiah this last weekend?

How were you encouraged?

Thank God today that He will never give up on you! Talk to Him about the areas of your life where you feel like giving up. Ask God to give you courage to go forward.

Tuesday

Please reread Nehemiah 6:1-4, Proverbs 4:25,26 & Luke 10:38-41. What kind of distractions did Nehemiah face? How can you relate to him?

What do you learn about distractions from the passages in Proverbs and Luke?

What distractions are you facing today? How have those distractions tempted you to give up on your calling? What do you find helps in dealing with distractions?

Talk to God today about the distractions that you are facing. Ask Him for the wisdom to know how best to put those distractions in their place. Pray for a growing desire to pursue what God has called you to do.

Wednesday

Please reread Nehemiah 6:5-9, Matthew 5:11,12 & 1 Peter 3:8-10. Recall a time when you or your actions were slandered or the subject of gossip. What impact did that have on you?

Recall a time when you were guilty of slandering someone else. What impact did that have on you?

As you read today's scripture write down one thing that encourages you and one thing that challenges you.

Thank God today for His mercy and forgiveness. Ask Him for the grace to forgive those who have slandered you and the courage to move through the hurt of that. Pray that He'll help you control your tongue and that you will not be guilty of slandering anyone.

Thursday

Please reread Nehemiah 6:10-13, Romans 8:15, and 2 Timothy 1:7. Nehemiah's enemies tried to use fear to stop him. How do you see Christians today sometimes hiding in fear rather than living in confidence?

What do you fear that sometimes tempts you to give up?

When you feel afraid, what biblical truths help you to advance in courage?

Ask God for a fresh dose of courage today! Ask Him to help you keep going even when fears tempt you to stop.



Memory Verse

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."
Galatians 6:9