

Don't Give Up

In the 2006 film Rocky Balboa, directed by Sylvester Stallone, Rocky tells his son, "You, me or nobody is gonna hit as hard as life. But it ain't about how hard you can hit. It's about how hard you can get hit... and keep moving forward." In other words, life can be really difficult at times but it's important not to give up and continue on. This is a truth that can be applied in all the difficult areas of life.

In so many fictional stories, the heroes are people that faced a difficult challenge but didn't give in to the hardship. Such as in, Avengers: Endgame by Marvel Studios. In this film, the main villain Thanos wiped out half of all life in the universe. But instead of giving in to a seemingly impossible task, the Avengers kept their goal in view, and fought to bring back every living person and thing that was snapped away. Or in the 2002 Spider Man film directed by Sam Raimi, where Peter Parker deals with the hardships of his Uncle Ben's death; the battle between him as Spider-Man and the Green Goblin; and his struggle with balancing his normal life and his new found duty as a superhero. As can be seen, a major part of this story is that no matter how many times he got hit (both by life and physically) he kept moving forward and even saved the day in the end.

In American history, a great representation of Rocky's quote is shown in the Revolutionary War. For decades the American people took hits for Great Britain until they got up and started fighting back. Despite having to fight against the most powerful country in the world at the time, the American people didn't give up and earned their independence. But examples of the concept that Rocky was conveying when he told his son don't have to be exclusively for grand events or fictional stories of heroes as

mentioned before. In everyday life there's someone at the gym catching their breath before another set, a student thinking extra hard on a difficult test, or a musician working diligently to find the right notes for his or her song. All these people could have said "This is too hard, I'm done with this." Yet they persisted.

However, most importantly, what does the Bible have to say about this concept? In Proverbs 24:16 it is said, "For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: But the wicked shall fall into mischief." So, the Bible talks about how a righteous person can take a hit and fall over and over again, but get back up every single time. Furthermore, this verse isn't about the difficulties of the physical world, it's about the struggle with sin. Take note that, "But the wicked shall fall into mischief." This verse contrasts the righteous from the wicked and illustrates what it means to be righteous. All people fall into sin, but one must get back up again, through Christ's forgiveness, to be righteous in the eyes of God.

Sylvester Stallone knew what he was doing when he wrote Rocky's quote into the script. It's a piece of wisdom applicable to everyone. Even greater though, is God's word regarding the perseverance of the righteous. Not giving up and overcoming struggle is worth so much more than wallowing in defeat. Never give up.

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