

Don't Quit

Scripture: “Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward.” ~**II John 1:8** (ESV)

Have you ever worked hard at something in order to reap the benefits of that hard work? For an example, if you play sports, you have done this. You have practiced your shooting, hitting, throwing, catching, etc., depending on the sport, in order to be prepared for the game. However, what happens when all you have worked hard for doesn't go as planned. What happens when you have made every shot you took in the game, but then missed the last second shot to win the game? How do you feel when you struck out with the tying and winning runs on base? I bet you feel bad and want to give up. In actuality, many people do. Let me give you an example using a baseball game. If you know anything about baseball, you will get the point.

I recently attended a Braves baseball game in Atlanta, GA. In the bottom of the eighth inning, the Braves hit a home run to take a 2-1 lead. The crowd was going crazy since they were only 3 outs away from another victory. The crowd had seen the Braves be cheated out of two other runs due to bad calls from the officials. (On a side note, I know none of you have had a bad referee or umpire before, lol, just kidding). The bullpen gates opened up wide, and out came our closer, or the guy who is suppose to finish the game without letting the other team scoring again. Unfortunately, he did not complete that task and subsequently lost the game for the Braves. However, on the following night, with the score 4-1 in the Braves favor, out of the bullpen gates he came. This time, however, he made quick work of the opportunity to defeat the other team. Even though this is a baseball game story, the application is true for you and me.

Sometimes we will fail. Sometimes we may want to give up after a hard fought battle that we seem to have lost. What if the Braves pitcher would have quit the team after the night he lost? He would have missed his opportunity for success and saving the win for him team the next night. When we give up, the enemy (other team), or the devil, wins. We will all have nights where we fail, mess up, or don't feel like a winner. However, that is not the time to quit or give up, but rather the time to practice harder and be ready the next time our number is called. Don't lose what you have worked so hard for, but keep working hard to get the win of the full rewards. Just like you must keep working physically to stay ready and sharp, so too must you work on your relationship with Jesus daily to be ready when He calls your number in this game called life.

Prayer: Lord, help me always be ready to share my faith with others. Help me be like you and never give up when it gets hard. Give me your strength. In Jesus name, Amen!

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