

## ENDURANCE: GOING BEYOND QUITTING

### Cultivating Character – Part 2

July 13, 2014

**DEFINITION:** *Character is what you do when no one is looking... Character is who you are.*

**Philippians 3:13-14 (NIV)** *“But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”*

It is infinitely easier to quit than to endure.

#### OBSERVATIONS ABOUT DEVELOPING ENDURANCE...

##### 1. Endurance is **COUNTER-CULTURAL!**

**James 1:12 (NLT)** *“God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.”*

**Endurance is essential for facing life's challenges.**  
**It gives staying power to our discipline!**

##### 2. Endurance is built by learning how to crash through

#### **QUITTING POINTS.**

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

**Luke 18:1 (NIV)** *“Then Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.”*

**ACTION:** Jot down or bring to mind one or two quitting points that you are currently facing in your life... \_\_\_\_\_

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##### 3. Watch out for the myth of **SWEET RELIEF!**

**James 1:12a (GW)** *“Blessed are those who endure when they are tested...”*

**Matthew 24:13 (GW)** *“The person who endures to the end will be saved.”*

##### 4. **COUNT THE COST** before quitting.

**It's always worth counting the cost of quitting before you miss out on the blessing of endurance.**

**Hebrews 11:6b (NLT)** *“Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him.”*

**Jeremiah 29:13-14 (NIV)** *“ ‘You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup>I will be found by you,’ says the Lord.”*

**God is bigger than any problem you face.**

**2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (TLB)** *“We are pressed on every side by troubles, but not crushed and broken. We are perplexed because we don't know why things happen as they do, but we don't give up and quit. <sup>9</sup>We... get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going.”*

**Quitting points are painful... Jesus knows that even better than we do. He endured all the way to the cross.**

**Hebrews 12:2-3 (NLT)** *“Because of the joy awaiting Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. <sup>3</sup>Think of all the hostility He endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.”*