

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sermon by Ray Reynolds

Don't Ever Give Up!

Introduction: I want you to be honest with me. . . . Do you feel like you are running out of time to do the things you want to do? Do you feel like the world is against you? Do you feel like prayer just isn't working anymore? Do you feel like everyone is watching you? Have you ever thought about quitting? It's so easy to get discouraged. We need perseverance! Someone once gave the following definition for perseverance: "*Pursuing worthy objectives with determination and patience while exhibiting fortitude when confronted with failure.*" Consider **Hebrews 12:1-3** to see an example of perseverance

Discussion:

I. Find Your Purpose

Luke 19:10 - What was Jesus' purpose? Jesus knew his purpose! Do you?

What's the purpose of the church? How's business?

Matthew 26:42 - Jesus said, "If this cup cannot pass Your will be done!"

II. Eliminate Your Excuses

Matthew 19:16-22 - Jesus encountered the rich young ruler. Saved? No, too many possessions.

Matthew 25:34-46 - Jesus separates the sheep and the goats. Standards? Feed, visit, clothe, etc.

III. Accept Responsibility

Mark 10:45 - Jesus came to serve and give His life as a ransom for many. Set a goal, achieve it.

John 10:7-18 - Jesus says, "I am the door, I am the good shepherd." Gave himself willingly.

IV. Develop Your Stamina

John 19:1-4 - Jesus was scourged before the crucifixion. Can you imagine?

Philippians 3:1-4 - We must rejoice, despite the dogs, evil workers, and legalistic radicals.

V. Know Your Incentives

Luke 22:67-71 - Jesus reminded the Sanhedrin that He was going to the right hand of God.

Acts 7 shows him standing looking down onto the earth from God's right hand.

II Timothy 4:6-8 - Paul knew His goal and was focused on His prize.

VI. Determine You Will Succeed

Luke 2:49 - Jesus knew He was to be about His Father's business.

Matthew 5:18 - Jesus reminded His followers that the OT would be nailed to the cross but not until every line of prophesy was fulfilled.

VII. Try Again & Refuse To Fail

John 19:10-11 - Jesus reminded Pilate that the only power he had was given to him.

Luke 23:36-37 - Jesus was mocked, criticized, ridiculed, and beaten. But remember that earlier he warned His disciples that if they did that to Him, what will they do to those who follow?

Conclusion: We can overcome! Why give up? We serve a God that can move mountains! Nothing is impossible with God! And I can do all things through Him! What do you need? Purpose = Find One, Excuses = Eliminate Them, Responsibility = Accept It, Stamina = Develop It, Incentives = Have Some, Success = Achieve It, Tenacity = Try, Try Again Don't ever give up!!!