

Monday, April 20

“In His infinite wisdom, God allows trials in order to develop perseverance in us and to cause us to fix our hopes on the glory that is yet to be revealed . . . Our faith and perseverance can grow only under the pain of trial.” Jerry Bridges

“[Christian perseverance is] long obedience in the same direction.” Eugene Peterson

“Wimpy worldviews make wimpy Christians. And wimpy Christians won’t survive the days ahead.” John Piper

Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill was the British leader who guided Great Britain and the Allies through the crisis of World War II. In the first year in his position as Prime Minister, Britain stood alone against Nazi Germany, but Churchill promised his country and the world that the British people would “never surrender.” He rallied the British people to a resolute resistance with his inspiring words and forceful decisions.

But his life was not always on an upward trajectory. In 1915, in the second year of World War I, Churchill was held responsible for the disastrous Dardanelles campaigns (approximately 250,000 Allied casualties), and he was excluded from the war coalition government. He resigned and volunteered to command an infantry battalion in France.

Yet, he didn’t allow his past failures to prevent him from pressing on in life. Out of political office from 1929 to 1939, Churchill issued disregarded warnings of the threat of Nazi and Japanese aggression – which ultimately proved to be true.

There is a story that has circulated for decades that when he returned to the elite Harrow School on October 29, 1941, which he had attended, he told the assembled students this: “Never give in. Never give in. Never, never, never, never – in nothing, great or small, large or petty – never give in, except to convictions of honour and good sense.”

His entire speech took less than five minutes. The previous quote is the one that is most published and remembered. Yet, the last sentence is just as memorable. Here it is: “These are not dark days; these are great days – the greatest days our country has ever lived; and we must all thank God that we have been allowed, each of us according to our stations, to play a part in making these days memorable in the history of our race.”

When we view the circumstances of life through the lens of a Christian worldview we have every reason to “never give in” because Jesus never did. He remained unwavering and focused even as He entered Jerusalem to suffer and die for us, for the forgiveness of our sins, and to conquer sin and death.

Galatians 6:9 *And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.*

Luke 21:19 *By standing firm you will gain life.*

When we “never give in, except to convictions of honour and good sense”, victory by the power and grace of our Lord and God will follow.

“According to your station” as a Christian, encourage one another with words of hope and concern, strengthen one another through the power of prayer, and minister to one another using the creative gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Never give in . . . but always reach out.