

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

December 5

2021

Don't Ever Give Up

In 1993, while dying of cancer, Jim Valvano coined the phrase “don't give up, don't ever give up” as an effort to encourage others who were battling cancer to never give up on their hope of defeating their cancer. Now, I would like to borrow Valvano's signature phrase, and I would like to encourage my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to never give up on their hope of obtaining eternal life in heaven, which God, who cannot lie, has promised (Titus 1:2) to those who faithfully serve Him (Revelation 22:14).

With that said my beloved brethren, I encourage you to never give up on your hope of obtaining eternal life, but rather be one who diligently strives to maintain a noble and good spiritual heart (Luke 8:15). Be one who truly loves the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30), and be one who seeks first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33). For by doing this, you can effectively fight the good fight of faith, and lay hold on eternal life (1 Timothy 6:12).

Brethren, I also encourage you to be one who utilizes the power of prayer (Philippians 4:6-7), when you stumble or grow weary. Do just as David did, ask God, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10). Therefore, don't give up, don't ever give up when the going gets

tough, but rather cast your cares upon the Lord our God, remembering that He does care for you (1 Peter 5:7), and that He will never forsake you (Hebrews 13:5).

Knowing that, I encourage you to never give up, but rather, be one who always remains steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58) no matter what comes your way. Keep in mind this life is not always a bowlful of cherries, for there are and will be some difficult times that will come. The truth is, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will face persecution (2 Timothy 3:12). So when you are faced with the various trials of this life, although they may sometimes be difficult to bear, always understand, and never forget that the testing of your faith is profitable (James 1:2-3; 1 Peter 1:6-9), and that your light affliction is but for a moment (2 Corinthians 5:16-18).

Therefore, put on, and keep on, the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil (Ephesians 6:11-18). When one does resist the devil while steadfast in the faith (1 Peter 5:9), he will flee from them (James 4:7). So, don't give up, don't ever give up on your hope of obtaining eternal life in heaven, but rather always run the race set before you with endurance (Hebrews 12:1), keep your eye on the prize (Philippians 3:13-14), and run in such a way that you may obtain it (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).

Once more, my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, I encourage you, don't give up, don't ever give up on your hope of obtaining eternal life in heaven. As John revealed, we can know that we have eternal life (1 John 5:13). Therefore, always sanctify the Lord God in your heart, and hold onto the hope that is within you (1 Peter 3:15-17), and be one who remains faithful unto death (Revelation 2:10).

✍️ Brad Phillips

EXCUSE ME, YOUR SLIP IS SHOWING

Quite often in homes around the world wives have to correct or change the attire of their husbands before they leave the house. For example, “Honey, that red tie doesn’t go with that brown suit.” Obviously a change is necessary. Once in a great while, he will get a chance to correct a flaw in her attire. For example, “Sweetheart, your slip is showing.”

The reason a husband or wife makes correction in the dress of their spouse is because of love. They don’t want them to be embarrassed, so, like it or not, they tell them.

Likewise, there are changes that need to be made in our spiritual attire as well.

Wouldn’t it be great if we would all “speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15) and tell one another when we are slipping spiritually?”

IS OUR SPIRITUAL SLIP SHOWING?

When someone is not attending as they should what would be wrong with telling them, in love, that their “slip was showing”? Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip” – Heb. 2:1.

Would we dare run around outside without our clothes on? That answer should be a resounding “NO!” But summer, before long, will be here again. If modesty is what you are preaching make sure you practice what you preach.

ARE WE WEARING OUR SPIRITUAL ARMOR?

If we aren’t fully armed (Eph. 6:10-17) we will give in to the world’s pleasures and desires. (1 Jn. 2:15-17) - Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the

flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

Some, it seems, try to run around with as little spiritual armor as possible. They see no need to carry around the shield of faith, therefore, they do not attend Bible study, Sunday or Wednesday evening services.

They see no need to carry that cumbersome “sword of the Spirit.” Therefore, they do not study which also contributes to their lack of attendance. They think those who attend all the services must not get anything else accomplished or have nothing better to do than go to the church building.

These are also the ones who are soaking their feet in the materialism the world has to offer and all its pleasure, pomp and pride and do not have their “feet shod with the preparation of the gospel” mainly because they do not study or attend.

Should we examine ourselves (2 Cor. 13:5) and make certain our “slips aren’t showing”?

✍️ Morris Hafley

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Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

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