

Message: ***Never Give Up!***

Scripture: Hebrews 11:32-12:3

(10-08-23 Pastor Tony Hao)

Ridiculed and rejected by friends and family. Abused and taken advantage of those who wish them evil. In 10:35, the writer to the Hebrews reminded them, "*Do not cast away your confidence.*" In the following verse he said, "*You have need of endurance.*" Don't give up! Hang on to your faith!

Perhaps you too were ridiculed and rejected because of your faith. Or, you now realize there's a great cost if you want to follow Jesus. How can you maintain your confidence in God? How do you have a faith that can endure through the darkest times of life?

From Hebrews 11, remember God seeks faithfulness, not victories. We don't need to give up because we are pursuing God's purpose, not our own. We don't need to give up because we can depend on our Lord who started and will bring to completion our faith. Fix your eyes on Him.

GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)

1. We know there is a cost in following Jesus, but it's hard to imagine going through hardship and persecution. Have you ever wondered if you have the faith that can endure? Or, will you give up?
2. Many of us have bought into a false view of the Christian life that emphasizes the BENEFITS of faith, rather than the OBJECT of faith. Is following Christ more for what we can get than what we can be?
3. One of Satan's main tools is to "tempt" us to give up on God. We are tempted to doubt God's goodness, and that God has forgotten us. What happens when we think we can't "trust" God anymore?
4. There was a movement called WWJD - "What Would Jesus Do?" Implied in this effort is for Christians to learn and then do as Jesus would do. In what way is this helpful? In what way is this futile?