

The Voice Of A Quitter!

Quitter Quotes -

1. ***"If you quit on the process, you are quitting on the result."***
2. ***"At the end, someone or something always gives up. It is either you give up and quit or the obstacle or failure gives up and makes way for your success to come through."***
3. ***"To quit is to fail – as long as you are still in the game you are succeeding!"***

Job 2:9-10 NKJV

⁹Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? **Curse God and die!**" ¹⁰But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

"**Curse God and die!**" was exactly what Satan wanted Job to do!!!

- And Job's wife put the temptation before her husband.
- Yes, Satan can work through people who are dear to us!

Matthew 16:22-23 NKJV

²²Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"

²³But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

- And **the temptation is stronger** *because we love them* so much.
- **Adam** listened to Eve, and **Abraham** listened to Sarah; but **Job did not listen to the advice of his wife.**

She was wrong, of course; but in all fairness, **we must consider her situation.**

- She had lost ten children in one day -
- That would be enough to devastate any mother.
- Family wealth was gone, and she was no longer the "leading lady" in the land.
- Her husband, once the greatest man in the East –
- Was now sitting at the city garbage dump, suffering from a terrible disease.

What did she have left?

- Rather than watch her husband waste away in pain and shame
- She would prefer that ***God strike him dead*** and get it over with immediately.
- ***Perhaps if Job cursed God***, God would do it.

Job's wife is typical of a class of persons that has always existed in the world.

- Such persons lose sight of all that is bright in life -
- Hem themselves in with ***the blackest gloom*** -
- Seek a path only in ***the darkness*** where no star shines -
- Allow distrust to take ***entire possession*** of their souls -
- Allow Hatred to ***reign supreme*** in the domain of their affections!!!

In life we often meet with persons whose ***gloomy minds throw a shadow*** on ***everything*** with which they come into contact.

- We protest against pessimism as ***being false in theory*** -
- And ***impossible in practice***.

******Even dark things have a bright side –***

- ***Which can be seen if looked for in a proper spirit.***

*THE CAUSES OF DESPAIR

1. **False views of God.** A man's theology very largely influences his life.

- Spiritual ***ideas*** are at the root of all others.
- **Whatever a man thinks of God** and religion, will largely mold his character.
- ***The pessimistic raving*** is indicative of a despair which has taken ***a fixed and settled position*** in the soul.
- ***Hope has fled***, and all the brightness ***has departed*** from life.

2. **The loss of faith in our fellow man is a prolific cause of despair.**

- We place ***confidence*** in man – And we are ***betrayed***.
- We ***trust*** them, and they deceive us.
- So ***we lose faith*** in mankind: we sink into a condition of despair.

3. **Denial of God's existence.** ***To take away God*** is to ***deprive the world of hope***, and consequently to plunge the human race into the blackest despair.

*THE FOLLY OF DESPAIR -

1. It shuts out of view possible changes for the better.
 - The clouds encompass us, the darkness hems us in
 - We see no light... **We lose hope** -
 - Never dreaming that behind the mists a sun is shining -
 - Which will sooner or later dispel the gloom
 - And illumine the world with its beams.
2. It injures the soul.
 - Like all evil passions, it grows with what it feeds on.
3. It is a rebellion against God.
 - Evil is not the universe. Goodness is eternal.
 - God lives, and His mercy fails not.
 - Despair is rank blasphemy against heaven.

In times of severe testing, our first question must not be, "How can I get out of this?" but "What can I get out of this?"

Job's wife thought she had the problem solved -

- If Job had followed her counsel - it would have only made things worse.
- Faith is living without scheming!!!
- It is obeying God in spite of feelings, circumstances, or consequences!!!
- Knowing that He is working out His perfect plan in His way in His time.

The two things Job would not give up.

- Were his faith in God and his integrity -
- And that is what his wife wanted him to do.
- Even if God did permit evil to come into his life
- Job would not rebel against God by taking matters into his own hands.

When life is difficult, it's easy to give up; but giving up is the worst thing we can do.

A professor of history said, "If Columbus had turned back, nobody would have blamed him-but nobody would have remembered him either."

If you want to be memorable, sometimes you have to be miserable!!!!

***THE REMEDY FOR DESPAIR -Recognizing the fact that there is a God - His mercy is over all that His hands have made!**

How can we ever despair?

- **We know that we are in His hands** - therefore we are sure.
- Let's leave **the demon of despair** to those who have neither **faith in God nor confidence in man!!!**
- We must cling to ***the eternal truth that God is love.***

When the chips are down and the pressure is on – it becomes quite tempting to **throw in the towel and quit.**

- **Couples** quit trying in **marriage.**
- **People** give up on their **careers.**
- **Teams** give up on the **playing field.**
- Once in a while you hear of **someone who has given up on life.**
- Well some time or another **we have all given up** or **at least given it a thought.**

BUT WAIT A MINUTE – BEFORE YOU GIVE UP CONSIDER THIS...

1) God hasn't given up on you.

Here's what the Bible says: Philippians 1:6 NKJV

⁶being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;

We may mess up.

- We may not learn and apply things like we should or as fast as we should.
- We sometimes just really blow it.
- **Nevertheless –**

One thing stands sure and **we can have confidence** in this one thing: **GOD HAS NOT GIVEN UP ON ME.**

It's true that God loves you just the way you are, BUT - - -

- **He loves you too much to allow you to stay that way.**
- **He is constantly molding and shaping and moving us -**
- In the direction that is **best suited for us.**

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

- Doesn't sound like God will ever give up on you so don't give up –
- God is moving you closer and closer to His great plan for you
- ***He will never give up on you.***

2) The Bible is full of examples of those who did not give up, thereby experiencing God's best for their lives.

- How about Joseph?
- You can read the account in the book of Genesis.
- God let him know of some of the details that He had for Joseph in a dream.
- He saw himself as a person in high authority – ruling over his brothers even

When Joseph told his brothers about the dream it made them mad and they sold him into slavery.

- One bad thing after another happened to Joseph
- He continued faithful to God and faithful in serving God
- and was finally rewarded with a position of great authority in Egypt.

As you read the account of Joseph you read the details of a person who persevered and finally was able to reap a great reward as a result of not giving up.

3) We are instructed to never give up in the Bible.

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

- Did you notice the words – ***IF WE DO NOT GIVE UP?***

The word IF indicates a condition -

- That must be met in order to receive the benefits promised.
- It says we'll enjoy the rewards if we do not give up.
- You could be giving up just as the rock is ready to move.
- You could be giving up just as God is sending the answer.
- Too many times we labor in prayer, seeking God for an answer when just as He is ready to answer – we give up and never notice whether He answered or not.

No wonder Jesus had the following instruction and story for his disciples.

Luke 18:1-8 NIV - The Parable of the Persistent Widow

18 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray **and not give up.**

² He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God **nor cared what people thought.** ³ And there was a widow in that town **who kept coming to him** with the plea, ‘***Grant me justice against my adversary.***’

⁴ “For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think,⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, **I will see that she gets justice,** so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’”

⁶ And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says.⁷ And **will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones,** who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?

⁸ I tell you, **he will see that they get justice,** and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, **will he find faith** on the earth?”

PRAISE TEAM –

- **Never give up!**
There’s a big difference between quitting and changing.

If what you are doing is **not** working you may need to change your approach or even what you are doing **but never, never give up.**

I saw this written: “***When God sees someone who doesn’t give up*** – He looks down and says, ‘Now, **there is someone I can use.**’”

Don’t listen to the voice of the quitter!

Job worshiped God...

- He took his **focus off of his problems** and **put it on God.**

“To quit is to fail – as long as you are still in the game you are succeeding!”