

DON'T GIVE UP

- I. Jacob held on because he wanted a reward (Genesis 32:24-32).**
- A. Jacob had sent his family forward and laid down to rest after leaving Padan-Aram and Laban.
 - 1. An angel came to him and they wrestled through the night.
 - 2. Jacob could not beat the angel but held onto him all night and would not let him leave.
 - B. Why didn't Jacob quit?
 - 1. He was old and could not overcome the angel.
 - 2. He must have been tired.
 - C. The reason was he wanted a blessing.
 - 1. He had a reward in mind.
 - 2. He would not quit until he received it.
 - D. As Christians, we are in a wrestling match too (Ephesians 6:12).
 - 1. We grow tired and older.
 - 2. Sometimes fatigue sets in from being on guard for so long and we just want to quit.
 - E. We don't give up because we want a reward as well (John 14:1-3).
 - 1. Each of us wants to go to heaven and we know if we quit the hope of that reward goes away.
 - 2. Numerous times the idea of a reward is mentioned in the New Testament to urge us on to continued faithfulness:
 - a. 1 Corinthians 15:58;
 - b. 2 Timothy 4:6-8;
 - c. 2 John 8 and many more.
 - F. If we want the reward of heaven, we cannot give up.
- II. Moses held on with help from others (Exodus 17:9-13).**
- A. As Joshua led the Israelites into battle, Moses stood on the mountain, holding up the rod above his head.
 - 1. As long as his arms were up, Israel prevailed.
 - 2. Holding that rod above his head got very tiresome.
 - 3. When he let his arms down to rest, Israel began to be beaten back by the Amalekites.
 - 4. Now doubt Moses saw an Israelite fall while his arms were down, which would cause him to blame himself.
 - B. Thankfully, Moses did not have to do it all by himself.
 - 1. Aaron and Hur caused him to sit on a stone and they each held an arm up to bring victory to Israel.
 - 2. Moses learned he could not do it all alone.
 - C. We are not going to beat discouragement and fatigue by ourselves.
 - 1. We need the help of our brethren.
 - 2. Galatians 6:2.
 - 3. Romans 15:1.
 - D. One of the best things that we can do is get a friend who is a Christian and hold each other accountable.

1. Glenn Colley told us of a preacher who had become addicted to pornography who came to him for help.
 2. Every day he calls Glenn and Glenn asks him if he has viewed any pornography that day and he tells him.
 3. Thankfully, so far it has been no, he hasn't.
 4. We need the help of our brethren to reach the finish line.
- E. When you get discouraged, go to the elders or a Christian friend or come to me - let them hold up your hands and help.

III. **Gideon kept fighting because the battle was not done (Judges 6-8).**

- A. After Gideon's army was cut down to the number God wanted, strange tactics were used to win the battle.
1. The attack was during the night, with lanterns, horns and pitchers.
 2. The results were that the Midianites were so confused that they fought amongst themselves and many were killed.
- B. In the morning, those that remained alive tried to escape.
1. Gideon and his 300 men were small in number and tired from being awake all night.
 2. Who would follow and finish off the Midianite army?
- C. Of course, it was Gideon and his men that finished off the job.
1. The Bible describes them this way, "Faint, yet pursuing."
 2. They wanted to finish what they started.
- D. We find ourselves in the same shape as Gideon's men sometimes don't we?
1. We have been fighting and duty drives us onward. We know that there are souls to save.
 2. There are always people that need love, encouragement and assistance.
- E. The battle will not be done until our race is finished on earth.

IV. **Some areas in which we must not give up.**

- A. We can't faint in prayer (Luke 18:1).
1. You and I have not prayed all the prayers we need to pray yet.
 2. How many blessings do we miss out on because we don't pray or pray right (James 4:2)?
- B. We can't faint in soul-winning (2 Corinthians 4:1-3, 16).
1. This might be the year the one you love decides to obey the gospel.
 2. There may be someone waiting for you to invite them to worship.
 3. If we quit, if I quit, who is going to preach, defend and proclaim the gospel?
- C. We can't let our hands faint (Isaiah 13:7).
1. There is much work to be done in the kingdom of Christ.
 2. Our attitude should be, "If I don't visit the sick, who will?"
 3. If I don't teach that children's class who will?
 4. If I don't grade that correspondence course, make that tape, visit that stray soul, who will?
- D. We can't faint in our worship (Malachi 1:13).
1. God deserves all the praise we can give Him and then more than

- that.
2. We haven't learned everything yet.
 3. We haven't thanked Him enough yet.
 4. We haven't shown God all the love that we need by our contributions yet.

From an article by Allen Webster