

NOW WHAT? June 10, 2018 *Getting through hopelessness, loss, & heartache*

We all feel weary at times, but when we are weak, then we're strong.

2 Corinthians 12:9 ..He said, “**My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.**” So now I’m glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.¹⁰ That’s why I take pleasure in my weaknesses & in the insults, hardships, persecutions, & troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I’m weak, then I am strong.

To get through hopelessness, loss, hurt, heartache, pain, & drama:

****Step 1 Know, speak, live, & run to the Word of God.**

****Step 2 Have the right identity, God’s identity of you.**

****Step 3 Have a clear vision & divine guidance.**

****Step 4 Gain new thoughts, knowledge, & a new way of thinking.**

****Step 5 Fight to the finish, stay faithful & endure to the end.**

Hebrews 6:12 TPT Don’t allow your hearts to grow dull or lose your enthusiasm but follow the example of those who fully received what God has promised because of *their strong faith and patient endurance.*

*I believe and pray that in the midst of the toughest circumstances, **with Jesus**, you have what it takes to produce God’s perfect will.*

Hebrews 12:1b ...let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. Let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. ² We do this by *keeping our eyes on Jesus*, the champion who *initiates and perfects our faith.*

Your ability to handle adversity will greatly influence how you get through your struggles.

“Your success in getting through hopelessness is based on your ability to turn obstacles into opportunities”

A mountain can stop you or make you strong.

“Your attitude controls your altitude”

Are you a quitter, camper, or a climber?

1. **Quitters** – Have given up on their dream, are seeking survival, stop looking ahead, and just try to get by. Relationships are lost, and self is the only thing that matters. Quitters choose to opt out, cop out, back out, drop out, walk out. Quitters abandon the climb. They ignore, mask, or desert everything & everyone. Quitters are often bitter, hurt, depressed, and emotionally numb. They’re mad, angry, frustrated and strike out at others. They blame others & make excuses. Ethically, they often live a compromised lifestyle. Quitters often abuse alcohol, drugs, junk TV or anything mind altering to numb the pain. They shut down.

Quitters Language: *No; can’t; won’t; impossible; who cares; this is stupid; it’s not my fault; I’m too old, too fat, skinny, tall, short, poor, dark, light, too weak; I’m out;*

2. **Campers** – Comfort is their ultimate goal; make a little progress & then stop, try to make their life comfortable; their goal is to relax & avoid pain. Play it safe. Live satisfied. They play not to lose. They know what is just good enough. Relationships are based on making them feel better, not be better. Campers view success as a specific destination rather than a journey. Campers give up what *could be* in exchange for what *is*. They often justify their partial destination. Decent jobs with decent pay & decent benefits. Just getting by. **Campers fear change!!**

Campers Language: *I don't know; maybe, we'll see; this is as far as I can go or I want to go; this is good enough; things could be a lot worse; what's the least needed to do the job?; it's not worth it; I'm trying to get comfortable; let's not risk it*

3. **Climbers** – Excitement. Learning. Growing. Creative energy. They're looking up & pressing on, have a vision & are reaching for it, are not satisfied but are committed to reach their summit. Relationships are built on purpose; honesty & vulnerability. Seek a purpose driven life. Joy. Climbers move forward & upward, progressing in their lifelong mission, despite all obstacles or other forms of adversity. Raise stellar children. Get closer to God. Finance the Kingdom of God. Energized by the lifelong journey. Possibility thinkers. Relentless. Never allowing age, gender, race, physical or mental disabilities or any other obstacle to get in their way. Deep sense of purpose and passion. Think big and think long term. Delayed gratification. Persistent, tenacious, & resilient. Courage & discipline. Intense faith. Dedication. When climbers have doubts, feel lonely & hurt they may hang out w/ the campers to rejuvenate, refuel & reenergize for the climb ahead.

Climbers Language: *Yes; let's make this happen; we can do it; follow me, there is a way; the time is now; let's go; I know where I'm going; lead, follow, or get out of my way;*

As a climber:

1. **Believe God is good; life's good (even when problems have come).**

1 John 4:4 ...you've already won a victory over those people, 'cause the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.

2. **Believe in yourself (even when you feel like a failure).**

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's masterpiece. He's created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.

3. Look for options and answers (God has made the way of escape).

1 Corinthians 10:13b AMP ...He can be trusted not to let you be tempted, tried, & assayed beyond your ability & strength of resistance & power to endure. But w/ the temptation, He'll always also provide the way out; the means of escape to a landing place, that you may be capable, strong & powerful to bear up under it, patiently.

4. Take a step toward the best option (then God can direct you).

Psalms 37:23 The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. 24 Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand.

5. Don't let tension and fear stop faith and creativity (let the peace of God rule your heart and mind).

2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

2 Things To Remember:

Remember failure isn't final (we all fall while climbing the mountain).

Philippians 3:13 No, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

Remember the *victim* never changes his circumstances (the whiner is never the winner).

2 Timothy 4:7 TPT I have fought an excellent fight. I have finished my full course and I've kept my heart full of faith.