

## **Don't Give Up!!**

### **Thursday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007 TH Talk**

Have you ever felt like giving up? When I say “giving up” I mean have you ever felt like quitting, just stopping whatever it is your doing, letting someone else finish for you, having an “I’m done with this!” attitude? I’m not going to limit what you think about by asking if you gave up on something specific because I know EVERYONE of us has thought about giving up at one point or another. I have. Many times for many different things.

This summer we have been talking about Basking in the Sun and tonight I was to continue talking about that topic. [I want to talk about how we need the Sun to survive and how our feelings of hopelessness and “giving up” start to creep in to our lives when we make decisions that take us away from the “Sun”.](#)

**Tuesday afternoon Christian, Muhammad, Cody, Alex, and I went on a bike ride at Carver Park Reserve.** We had some mechanical difficulties in the beginning but after we had fixed the problem we began our ride. The plan was to ride for a little while than head home. Pretty simple plan. **We started riding with everyone together.** We were all energized and ready to go! It was a great day for a ride because the path had some shaded spots and it followed a chain of lakes. Unfortunately, the path we started on wasn’t paved so it took a little more work than normal to keep a good speed up. Soon we found a path that was paved so we turned that direction. It was good because the path was much smoother, BUT it was also hillier. **As we began to ride the hills we began to get spread out. Some began to get tired and started to slow down. Others were able to keep the pace up and started to pull ahead. Soon the slower rider had disappeared from sight behind us. The energy and encouragement you get from being in the middle of the group had disappeared! Everyone was spread out. When you are alone it is hard to keep focused and catch up with everyone else. It is discouraging and frustrating!**

That same thing happened to me a few weeks ago. I was riding my bike with my brother. We left his house and I was feeling fine. My legs weren’t tired at all, my energy level was pretty good, I thought I’d be able to keep up the whole time (he’s been exercising more than I have been lately so thinking I would keep up was false hope! ☺). **As the ride went on I became more and more tired and I started to pedal slower and slower! As we began to head back to his house we came to a hill that was LONG and steep. It didn’t start out really steep; it just gradually got steeper and steeper.**

**About one third of the way up the hill I decided to coast for a second, catch my breath, and look around at the farm fields around us. BAD IDEA ON A HILL!!! Genius move by me! What do you think happened when I stopped pedaling and started to coast (which only ended up being about 2-3 seconds anyway)? My brother pulled away and got further and further in front of me. Pretty soon he was only a small dot on the hill. I was SOOO frustrated, mad, annoyed, and tired. I wanted to give up SOOO bad! The only reason I**

didn't walk up the hill was because there were cars driving by and I didn't want them to watch me walk my bike up the hill. I would have been embarrassed. I am too prideful to walk my bike up a hill.

Being the kind guy my brother is, he waited for me at the top of the long hill. I decided I'd do something called "drafting" the rest of the way home. Does anyone know what "drafting" is? It is when you let the person in front of you push the air to the side and you ride close behind them and let them do most of the work. If done correctly, the person in the back can almost coast while the other person pedals their heart out! NASCAR drivers do it all the time. Once I started drafting things got a whole lot easier. I kept up with him the whole way back. Once or twice I started to look off to the side at the fields around me and as soon as I did that I lost focus on my drafting and began to fall behind again. I had to really focus on staying behind my brother. **I had to stay in his presence to keep up.**

Have you ever felt like life is going by soooo fast and you are falling behind so fast that you want to just quit and sit down by the "road". You're tired, annoyed, frustrated, mad, discouraged, and fed up with it all?

When we lose focus on staying in the Presence of the Son we begin to experience the feelings of hopelessness and "giving up". They start to creep in to our lives when we make decisions that take us away from the "Son".

Our closing song was written by a man who lost almost everything he owned, worked for, and loved.

Horatio G. Spafford, a 43-year-old Chicago businessman, suffered financial disaster in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. He and his wife were still grieving over the death of their only son shortly before the fire. Spafford realized they needed to get away for a vacation. Knowing that their friend and well-known evangelist Dwight L. Moody was going to be in England that fall for a campaign, he decided to take the entire family to England. His wife Anna and his four daughters sailed ahead on the S.S. *Ville du Havre*. Urgent business delayed him so he planned to follow shortly.

The ship was struck by an iron sailing vessel and sank in 12 minutes in the cold waters of the Atlantic Ocean. Two hundred and twenty-six lives were lost. Mrs. Spafford miraculously survived the accident, but their four daughters Tanetta, Maggie, Annie and Bessie drowned in the tragedy. On reaching the European mainland, she cabled her husband with the sad message, "Saved alone."

Stories differ as to when the hymn, "It Is Well With My Soul," was written. Some believe it was later when Spafford was on a ship to rejoin his wife in Cardiff, Wales. When the captain informed him that they were passing over the scene of the accident, what depth of pain-filled grief must have flooded over him. The Holy Spirit inspired him to pen these words, "When sorrows like sea billows roll; whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say, it is well, it is well, with my soul."

(Taken from <http://www.christianity.ca/church/worship/2004/02.000.html>)

If anyone could have given up and decided to quit what he was doing and just let go it was this man. He must have been SOOO frustrated, annoyed, mad, discouraged, and ready to give up. Yet he did not. He kept going. He stayed in the presence of God and was able to make it through all the feelings and emotions he had.

Think of a time in your life when you've been discourage, frustrated, annoyed, etc... What did you do? How did you react? Did you just sit down and let it get to you?

Sometimes we let our circumstances dictate our view of life. When I was behind my brother on the hill I was not very happy. The only way I was able to make it back to the house was by staying close to the wheel of his bike in front of me. I had to be in his presence. The only way Spafford was able to overcome such a hard time in his life was by pursuing the presence of God.

*Jesus says in Matthew 11:28-29, "If you are tired from carrying heavy burdens, come to me and I will give you rest. Take the yoke I give you. Put it on your shoulders and learn from me. I am gentle and humble, and you will find rest. This yoke is easy to bear, and this burden is light."*

Jesus gives us a promise. He promises us that He will take our heavy burdens and give us rest. The struggle is over. If you're tired, frustrated, annoyed, etc... you can find rest in the presence of Jesus. Rest in Jesus as you "draft" with Him, as you pursue Him like Spafford, as you join with Him in pursuing the awesome life He has for you.

I want to challenge you all tonight to take your heavy stuff that holds you back and give it to Jesus. He wants to give you rest. He wants to give you peace. All you need to do is ask for it and turn our burdens over to Him. Don't let your discouragement or frustrations cause you to "fall behind" like mine did when I biked. Rather, let them be an opportunity to spend more basking in the Son.

If you have questions about anything I've talked about tonight PLEASE ask me, Marie, or any of the other staff when they get back. We would love an opportunity to talk with you about pursuing Jesus.

SONG:

It is well with my soul

PRAYER: