

GOD NEVER GIVES UP

by Jackson Morro

© 1998 by Christ's Chapel
Fall River, Massachusetts

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Version of the Bible.

Printed in the United States of America
All rights reserved

Christ's Chapel
PO Box 3182
Fall River, MA 02722

GOD NEVER GIVES UP

The Word "Gospel" means "Good News." I want today to give you a good dose of the Good News. The Good News is that God loves you; God cares about you; God believes in you; God has a plan for your life. So, if you're feeling down today, I want you to start standing up on the inside and start believing in yourself because God believes in you.

In the Book of Jeremiah, Chapter 29, verse 11, God states, "For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope." It doesn't matter where you've been or where you are today. If you're down, you don't have to stay there. God can make your life brand new because all things are possible for Him.

I think of John Newton, who, a few hundred years ago, owned a slave trading ship. He was cruel and vicious and caused the death and suffering of many Africans. Yet, one day, the grace of Jesus Christ came to John Newton and convicted him of his sin. He saw how very wrong he had been. He repented, changed his life, and became a minister. He also wrote the song,

“Amazing Grace,” which has touched millions of lives over the centuries. It’s only the amazing grace of Jesus Christ that can change a wicked, vile sinner into a God-fearing, God-loving saint.

Have you ever made a mistake? Have you ever felt like a miserable failure? Are you there now? Do you feel you’ve messed up so badly that even God doesn’t want anything to do with you? Maybe you’ve caused others hurt and grief. Maybe you’re even thinking of doing something irrational like taking your own life. Well, I have something to say to you. **GOD IS NOT THROUGH WITH YOU. HE NEVER GIVES UP. GOD LOVES YOU.**

Let me repeat that. **GOD LOVES YOU.** Let me repeat that again. **GOD LOVES YOU.** Even if you’ve messed up.

In the Old Testament we see a prophet named Jeremiah. He was known as “the weeping prophet.” He wept for his people, the nation of Israel, because they had strayed so far from God. He said, “I wish my eyes were fountains of tears so I could weep night and day for my people.” (Jeremiah 9:11) He had just about given up on his people and he felt even God had given up on them.

But one day God came to Jeremiah and said, “Jeremiah, I’ve got something to show you; go down to the potter’s house.” And we read:

Then I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was, making something on the wheel. But the vessel that he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand; so he remade it into another vessel, as it pleased the potter to make. Then the word of the Lord came to me saying, “Can I not, O house of Israel, deal with you as the potter does?” declares the Lord. “Behold, like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.”

- Jeremiah 18:3-6

Jeremiah watched the potter at his wheel and asked, “Mr. Potter, what are you doing?” The potter said, “I’m making a precious vessel. I have a plan and a dream for this piece of clay.” And Jeremiah understood how God had a plan and a dream for every person ever born.

All of a sudden the potter stopped. He took the vessel and threw it to the ground and smashed it to pieces. Jeremiah cried out, “What are you doing!?” The potter said, “The vessel was flawed. I have to remake it.”

Jeremiah watched as the potter lovingly picked up those same pieces of clay and started skillfully remolding the clay on the wheel again. This time,

the vessel came out perfect.

God told Jeremiah, “Like clay in the hands of the potter, so are My people in My hands.”

God has a plan for everyone. He doesn’t give up on people or throw them away when they make a mistake. He remolds them.

In Romans 8:28 we have the great promise of God, “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” Now, why does God cause everything to work together for our good, even our mistakes? We have the answer in the very next verse. “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (Romans 8:29)

God has a plan for you and me. And His highest plan is to make us become like His Son Jesus. He can even use our mistakes to teach us. How? Because through our mistakes we become more humble. As we give our failures to Him, we learn more about faith, patience, compassion, and love. And each time, we become just a little bit more like His Son Jesus.

I think of the story told by the young evangelist Lafayette Scales at a revival I attended. This is a true story about him when he was a student at Ohio State University. I went to the University of Michigan for my Master’s Degree. We Wolverines of Michigan love getting a story on the Buckeyes of Ohio State and we love “goofing” on our sports rivals when we can. But this is actually a true story.

When Lafayette Scales was at Ohio State just starting out as a freshman, he was going by the art room. He was curious about what went on in an art room so he looked in. He saw a block of granite in the middle of the room. He also saw a wise-looking old art professor who was also the artist in residence. He watched as all the artists did that day was look at the block of granite. The artist would go to one corner and look. Then he’d go to another corner and look. Finally he left.

Well, Lafayette Scales was fascinated, so he went back the next day. The wise old artist was there and all he did was knock off a few of the rough edges from the block of granite and then he left.

By the third day, the artist was working more diligently, and the block of granite started taking the shape of a bird or a fowl. Scales went up to the artist and asked, “Sir, what are you making?” And the artist replied, “I’m making a duck.”

Well, Lafayette Scales went back to watch every day for a week, and by the end of the week, sure enough, the block of granite had been changed into the perfect image of a duck. So he asked the artist, “Sir, how do you do that?”

How do you take a block of granite and turn it into a duck?"

The wise old artist knew he was talking to a freshman, so he said to himself, "I think I'll have a little fun with the answer." He said to Lafayette Scales, "Son, I take my hammer and chisel, I go up to that block of granite, and I just knock off anything that doesn't look like a duck!" And that's the way God works in our lives, through the good times and the bad times, through our successes and through our mistakes. He knocks off anything that doesn't look like His Son Jesus, so that over the course of time we become more like His Son.

Have you ever seen a construction project? In my lifetime I've worked where there have been several construction projects. It always starts out with an architect's picture. In this picture there is a perfectly built building. The sky is always blue. Did you ever notice, it's never raining in the architect's picture? The grass is always perfectly green, the bushes and shrubs are always perfectly trimmed. So, it always starts out with the architect's picture.

But have you ever seen an actual construction site? The first thing you usually see is a big hole. And there's often a lot of mud. There are cinder blocks in one corner, roofing tiles in another, and pipes in still another corner.

Little by little, things begin to take shape. One day you look and the foundation is in. All of a sudden the walls go up. Then, the windows are in, the pipes are installed, the roof is put on. Then the grass is planted and the bushes are put in place. Finally, the great day of dedication arrives when the building is completed. A crowd of people gathers for the dedication. There's a large ribbon in front of the building and some man with a silly looking pair of huge scissors comes out and cuts the ribbon and the crowd applauds. The architect holds up his picture, and lo and behold, the building looks exactly like the picture he started with. Oh, but it was a process! It didn't happen instantly.

God works in our lives this way. God is the potter and you are the clay. God is the architect and you are His building project; God is the artist, and you are His block of granite. And I tell you that God has a plan for your life, no matter how low you might feel at the moment. And God will never give up on you, as long as you never give up.

You may say, "You don't know how big my mess is." You're right; I don't know how big your mess is. But I know Someone Who is bigger and more powerful than any mistake you've ever made or any mess you've ever gotten into. I know a potter Who is more skillful, an artist Who is more powerful, and an architect Who is stronger than any mess you could make,

and His name is God. And He's made a way, through His Son Jesus Christ, for you to come back. He sent His Son Jesus to die on a cross to pay the price for any sin you've ever committed and to straighten out any mess you've ever made. This Jesus can make your life brand new. If you'll give your life to God, and accept what His Son Jesus did for you on the cross, He'll start remaking your life.

Come to God, and admit you are a sinner. Yes, it's a fact, you have sinned, you have made mistakes — as I have, as we all have. The Bible tells us, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) Jesus says, "Come to Me. Admit you are a sinner. But then leave your sins with Me. I'm big enough to forgive any sin you've committed and I'm powerful enough to correct any mess you've made. Walk with Me into the new life I have for you."

The Lord Jesus Christ gave His life for you; He loves you. He'll make your life count for something. He'll make it count for good and not let your life be wasted. But it starts with YOU. You have to come to God; you have to make that decision.

You have to ask Jesus Christ to become your Savior. But you have to take the step. God will never force you to do things His way. God created you with a free will and He respects that free will. God will never twist your arm or put you in a headlock to force you into His plan for you.

But if you'll come and surrender your heart to Him and want for yourself what God wants for you, it will be a good plan and you'll never regret it. Will you pray now?:

"Lord Jesus Christ, I come to You today and I admit I'm a sinner. Lord, I've tried it my way and I've made a mess. I need that new life that only You can give. I want to be reconciled to God the Father through what You did on the cross. Lord, I want to be the piece of clay and let You be the potter; I want to be the block of granite and let You be the artist; I want to be the building project and let You be the architect. And I'll live the rest of my life for You. Amen."

And now, I want to pray for you:

"In the name of Jesus Christ, I pray for you, that the Holy Spirit will make it real to your heart at this very moment that God has a great plan for you and that He has given you new life. And I pray that you'll start seeing God working in your life and in you, and that you'll have a knowing in your heart that God will never give up on you as long as

you never give up. Amen.”

As I close, I pray that you'll feel the very hope in your heart that God has for you. So many people give up on life and it doesn't have to be that way. God is faithful! God is faithful!

We have to learn to be patient. I think of the person who had a sign on his desk: “God, I want patience and I want it NOW!” So often we're like that. We have to follow through with God and walk through life continually with Him. Our walk with God and our journey with Him is a lifetime commitment. God has made a commitment to us and He wants us to make a commitment to Him.

Remember, we're in this together with God forever. Isn't that a comforting thought?

Take care and God bless you.

* * *

We invite you to send any prayer requests you might have for prayer at our chapel prayer meetings. Send to:

Christ's Chapel
PO Box 3182
Fall River, MA 02722

Also write to be put on our mailing list to receive periodic letters. Let us know specifically if you'd like to receive the Daily Devotional.