



JOYCE MEYER
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NEVER GIVE UP!

Teaching Notes by Joyce Meyer

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NEVER GIVE UP!

I Refuse To Be Trapped In The Past!

I. How Long Will You Mourn?

- A. **I Samuel 16:1** – God was not mourning – He had a new plan.
- B. The Israelites by law were permitted thirty days to mourn, and then they had to move on.
 - 1. **Deuteronomy 34:7-8** – The Israelites mourned for Moses thirty days.
- C. **Joshua 1:1-7** – Moses is dead – now ARISE and PRESS IN to the FUTURE.
 - 1. **Verse 7** – God gives them a new vision and new direction; He tells them not to turn from it to the right or the left.
 - 2. Look straight ahead – don't look back.
- D. **Luke 17:32** – *Remember Lot's wife!*
 - 1. She looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt.
- E. **Philippians 3:13-14** – Pressing on to what lies ahead
 - 1. Paul said he **strained** forward – HE WAS DETERMINED.
 - 2. He said this was the most important thing to him.
- F. Fulfilling your destiny demands letting go of what lies behind.

G. The dreams of the future have no place for the failures of the past.

II. New Wine And Old Wineskins

A. **Matthew 9:16-17** – An old garment does not get a new patch, and new wine does not go into old wineskins.

1. Cannot mix old and new – both will be ruined.
2. Cannot mix Old Covenant (law) and New Covenant (grace).
 - a. Legalism and the new life in Christ just won't mix.
 - b. Multitudes of Christians never experience the joy of the new life in Christ because they hang on to old ways of approaching God.

B. **New** (defined/Webster's) – FRESH! Just discovered, found, or learned. Starting again in a cycle. Rejuvenated. Changed for the better.

C. The old may be familiar, but it is also stale. **It is no longer anointed!**

D. **Lamentations 3:23** – His mercy is new every morning.

1. **Every 24 hours, we get a chance for a new beginning.**

E. **Isaiah 43:18-19** – Forget the past and make way for the future.

1. **I AM** doing a new thing – NOT – **I will** do a new thing.
2. God is doing it, and we will miss it if we dwell on the past.
3. Everything in God's economy is progressive. God never goes backward – He always goes forward!

III. Regrets

A. **Regret** (defined) – To feel sorry or grieve over. Mourn; a sense of loss and longing for something or someone gone.

Regret (continued) – Distress over a desire unfulfilled or an action performed or not performed.

B. We are told to grieve and mourn over our sins – but then to repent, receive forgiveness, and press forward.

1. There is a difference in proper grieving and allowing a “spirit of grief” to control your life.

C. Most people live in regrets or dreads.

1. They regret the past.

2. They dread the future.

Dread (defined) – To anticipate with terror and fear.

D. **Regret** causes us to **regress** instead of **progress**.

E. Be a **NOW** person!

1. **Hebrews 11:1** (KJV) – *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

2. **Hebrews 3:7-8** – Today, if you will hear His voice . . .

3. **Hebrews 3:15** – Hear and obey today.

**THE BLESSINGS ALLOTTED FOR TODAY WILL NOT
BE RELEASED IF YOU ARE LIVING IN THE PAST.**

IV. Stop Remembering What God Has Forgotten.

A. How does God view your past sins?

1. He hates them – but He does not hate you.

B. **Isaiah 43:18-26** – Stop burdening Me with your sins; I have forgotten them.

1. Remind Me of your merits.

2. I always tell the Lord, “**I don’t deserve anything except death; but I do believe in You, and Your Word says that is enough for me to get blessed.**”
- C. **Jeremiah 31:33-34** – I will write My Law in their hearts, and I will seriously remember their sins no more.
- D. **Hebrews 8:8-12; 10:14-18**
1. What are you sacrificing? Perhaps your future!!
- E. STOP REMEMBERING WHAT GOD HAS FORGOTTEN!
- F. Receive the forgiveness you have been asking for. It is a free gift of His grace. But you must ASK and RECEIVE, and YOUR JOY WILL BE FULL.
1. **John 16:24**
- G. God has forgotten your past mistakes – can you?

V. **No Matter What You Must Overcome – NEVER GIVE UP!**

- A. Handicaps
1. Do not let physical handicaps stop you – you may not be able to do what everyone else does, but you CAN do something.
 2. Do not let mental handicaps stop you. You may not learn as quickly as someone else, but you CAN learn – **you just have to try harder.**
 - a. David got A’s and never studied; Sandra got A’s and had to work very hard; and Laura got C’s and did not care.
 - b. Daniel did not do that great in school – actually, he hated school. But we had confidence in him, and he had confidence in himself that he would find his niche. He is learning to edit my television programs, and we have discovered he is great with “hands-on” learning.

- c. Probably, a lot of people have **given up** because they could not do well in “book” learning and never found out their gifts were in “hands-on” learning.

B. Emotionally handicapped due to past abuse

1. Don't let difficulty in relationships prevent you from learning how to function well with others.
 - a. I was a controller, and I learned not to be.
 - b. I was hard to get along with, and I learned not to be.
 - c. I was very easily offended, and I learned not to be.
2. People who have been hurt in the past are often afraid of being hurt again.
 - a. We can get over our fears if we are determined to.
 - b. Don't let the pain of the past give you a lonely future.
3. People who have experienced a lot of rejection spend more time avoiding rejection than they do building healthy relationships.

It is time to look into the Word of God and see what HE says about you – **stop listening to voices from the past!**

4. Some people fail in life because they were adopted. They can never get beyond trying to figure out why their natural parents gave them away.
5. Some fail because their parents did not show them love. They verbally, mentally, emotionally or sexually abused them.

Psalm 27:10 – Although my father and mother have forsaken me, God will take me up and adopt me as His own child.

C. Failures

1. Abraham Lincoln lost several elections before he was elected President of the United States.

2. Thomas Edison said, “I failed my way to success.” He refused to quit and finally invented the light bulb. Once when asked about his failures, he replied: “I never failed; I invented the light bulb – it was just a 2,000-step process.”
3. I believe failure is part of every success. Failing on our way to success humbles us. This is vital in order for God to effectively use us.
4. The Apostle Peter failed miserably at the Crucifixion and went on to become one of the greatest and most well-known apostles. He had so much Holy Ghost power that when his shadow fell on people, they got healed.
5. The Apostle Paul certainly failed miserably. He was so deceived that he was persecuting Christians and thinking it was a godly thing to do. Yet, he went on to get so close to God that he received two-thirds of the New Testament by direct revelation. When handkerchiefs were taken from his body and placed on the sick, they were healed.
6. Ivory soap and Kleenex – Don’t give up when you fail. Learn from your mistakes, and you might be surprised by what happens to your blunders.
 - a. Ivory soap was not supposed to float, but a manufacturing error became its top selling point.
 - b. The material used to manufacture Kleenex tissues was originally invented as a gas-mask filter in World War I. It later failed as a cold cream remover, but finally hit upon success when it was repackaged as a disposable handkerchief. Now Americans buy nearly 200 billion tissues a year.
 - c. The fact is 80-90 percent of new product launches fail – so don’t be afraid to try something new, and keep on trying it until you find the right mix.
7. YOU HAVE NOT FAILED UNTIL YOU STOP TRYING!

NEVER GIVE UP!

How Serious Are You About Having Change In Your Life?

- I. **Before You Can Get Up On The Outside, You Must Get Up On The Inside!**
- A. **John 5:1-7** – A picture of a man who needs healing for the whole man
1. He represents much of mankind today.
- B. He is lying down inside as well as outside.
- C. Everything about the man is **DOWN**.
1. **Spiritually** – He is passive, lethargic, perhaps even spiritually dead. He may have had no real relationship with God; and if he did, it was probably a religious relationship.
 2. **Mentally** – He is down; his thoughts are negative and hopeless. He does not have an attitude of faith.
 3. **Emotionally** – He is down; he is discouraged and depressed. I am sure he was moody. He was full of self-pity.
 4. **His will** – He is passive and down; he is not making choices. He is passively taking whatever life hands him.
 5. **Physically** – He is down. He cannot walk.
- D. Everything about Satan is **DOWN**, and everything about Jesus is **UP!**
1. **Psalm 143:3-4** – The devil's ways are all down, dark, dead, and depressing.
- The devil wants you in a pit and will do anything he can to keep you there.

2. **James 4:10** – Jesus will lift you up and make your life significant.
 3. **Psalm 3:3** – He is my glory and the lifter of my head.
 4. **Psalm 113:7** – *[The Lord] raises the poor out of the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap and the dung hill . . .*
- E. When the real you (the inner you) gets up, the outer man will follow.
- F. The man in **John: Chapter 5** was sick in his soul. When this occurs, it always affects the body.

II. Soul Sickness

- A. **Proverbs 25:28** – *He who has no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down and without walls.*
1. When your spirit is down, you are wide open for enemy attack.
 2. **Nehemiah 8:10** (KJV) – . . . *the joy of the Lord is your strength.*
 3. **Proverbs 17:22** – *A happy heart is good medicine and a cheerful mind works healing, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.*
 4. **Proverbs 15:30** – *The light in the eyes [of him whose heart is joyful] rejoices the hearts of others, and good news nourishes the bones.*
 5. **Proverbs 16:24** – *Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the mind and healing to the body.*
- B. **Psalm 23** – He restores my soul (inner life).
- C. **Matthew 11:28-30** – He gives rest and refreshment for your soul (inner life).

III. I Have Nobody To Help Me!

- A. The man in **John: Chapter 5** was looking to the wrong source.
- B. **Jeremiah 17:5-8** – When the soul seeks man, he is dry, parched, and miserable.
 - 1. He did not have his mind on God.
 - 2. He will not see any good come.
 - 3. I don't believe he will feel good physically either.
- C. **Habakkuk 2:4** – Behold the proud; his soul is not right within him.
 - 1. He is trusting in himself; he is looking to the wrong source.
 - 2. His attitude is not right.
 - 3. Things are not right “within” him.
- D. The man in **John: Chapter 5** was looking for **somebody** to help him, but not “**the One**” Who alone could help him.

IV. Somebody Always Gets Ahead Of Me.

- A. Self-pity is a very destructive and negative emotion.
- B. It is idolatry.
- C. Self-pity turns us in on ourselves; it makes us blind to our blessings and the **possibilities** before us.
 - 1. People full of self-pity do nothing for themselves; they want others to do it for them.

They just sit and feel sorry for themselves.
 - 2. They resent every blessing that other people have.

- D. The man at the pool needed an attitude change!
1. Life had dealt him seemingly “unfair” circumstances.
 2. He had become bitter.
 3. He had no dreams and no vision. He had a chip on his shoulder, and he felt the world owed him.
 - a. How do I know that? Because he was waiting for someone else to make his life better.
 - b. Jesus said to the man, “ARISE.” His attitude needed to get up before he could get up physically.
 - c. Arise (defined) – Get up or have a spiritual awakening out of lethargy.
 - d. Lethargy (defined) – Sluggish indifference, apathy, forgetfulness, passive, lazy, and lukewarm.
 4. He believed more in a myth (angels and troubled waters) than in the living God.
 - a. Many believe in fables, old wives tales, legends, traditions, and doctrines of men more than in God.
 - b. Are you still looking for your four-leaf clover?
 - c. Are you still wearing your rabbit’s foot?
 - d. Are you still looking for your lucky number to come up?

**IF YOU ARE DETERMINED TO DO SOMETHING
FOR YOURSELF, GOD WILL HELP YOU.**

V. Why Do We Sit Here And Die?

- A. **II Kings 7:3** – Four lepers decide to **arise** and **do something** lest they **do nothing**.
- B. **II Kings 6:24-7:16** – The people were starving, and fear of dying was preventing them from rushing the enemy. They were dying anyway, but the **fear** of dying was actually what was killing them.
1. God was waiting for someone to TRUST HIM and GET UP and DO SOMETHING.
- C. **Defeat can become an attitude that becomes a way of life!!**
- D. **Ephesians 4:23** – Attitude must be regularly renewed.
1. If you are filled with self-pity, have a chip on your shoulder, and feel the world owes you –
GET OVER IT!
 2. If you are passive, lazy, weak-willed, and easily defeated –
GET OVER IT!
 3. If you lack determination and feel like giving up –
GET OVER IT!

PERSONAL NOTES

Standing Through The Storm

I. Satan's Attack

- A. **Revelation 12:2** – If you are pregnant with a dream or vision for your life, it requires birth pangs to bring it forth.
1. Everything won't be easy or without challenges.
- B. **Revelation 12:3-4** – The devil always shows up to prevent the birth, or to devour what is born immediately before it has a chance to get started.
- C. **Revelation 12:11** (KJV) – *They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony . . .*
1. To defeat the devil we must know the Word and know the power in the blood.
 2. We must testify to the Word – speak the Word out of our mouths.
- D. **I Corinthians 16:9** – A wide door of opportunity opened, and with it many adversaries.
1. Opportunity (defined/Webster's) – A **chance** for improvement or advancement.
 2. Opposition (defined/Webster's) – The act of opposing or being in conflict. Resistance; to lie opposite of, or set against.
 3. Conflict (defined) – A state of open, prolonged fighting and warfare.
- E. Satan always attacks during building or progress.
1. **Ezra 4:1-5**

2. **Nehemiah 2:17-20; 4:1-9, 13-23** – Nehemiah knew it was going to be a battle, but he was determined not to give up!

II. Hold Your Ground.

- A. **Ephesians 6:10-18** – (Read Amplified and Message translations.)
- B. Empowered through **union** with Him.
 1. **Isaiah 40:31** (KJV) – . . . *they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength . . .*
 2. During attack, we get worn down. We must rebuild our reserves by spending time with God.
 3. **Psalm 91:1-2** – He that dwells in the secret place shall defeat the enemy.
 4. **Psalm 27:3-6** – Delivered from trouble through seeking God
- C. You do your part, and God will not fail to do His part.
 1. Some people stay so busy trying to do God’s part that they never get around to their part.
 2. You can get so caught up in the problem that it actually takes you away from the Lord.
- D. **Ephesians 6:12** – We wrestle not with flesh and blood.
 1. The problem is not people.
- E. **Ephesians 6:11** – PUT ON God’s armor that you may stand your ground.
- F. During crisis:
 1. Stand

2. When you can't go forward and you don't want to go backward – STAND!! HOLD YOUR GROUND!
3. **Revelation 3:11** – . . . *hold fast what you have, so that no one may rob you and deprive you of your crown.*
4. **Revelation 2:24-27** – You may not be able to go forward, but hold your ground.

CONCENTRATE ON NOT GIVING UP!

III. Various Pieces Of Armor

A. Truth – God's Word

1. During crisis we are to tighten it because Satan will try to take it away from you.
2. When Jesus was under attack in the desert, we see Him holding on to the Word. He declared over and over, "IT IS WRITTEN."
3. Be prepared to face truth from God. He may need to show you something about yourself or something about how you got into your situation.
4. Don't give up the ship. You may have to throw some things overboard, but don't give up the ship.
 - a. **Acts 27:10-15** – Don't just give up and let her drift.
 - b. **Acts 27:18-19** – They ended up being saved, but had to throw some things overboard.

B. Integrity – Keep doing what is right even though you are having trouble.

1. **Galatians 6:9-10** – Be not weary in well doing, for in due season you shall reap, if you faint not.
 - a. If you don't give up, you will finally get a reward.

- b. **Psalm 37:1-3** – Trust God and keep doing good.
 - 2. It is very hard to do what is right when nothing right is happening to you.

Do it anyway, and you will be blessed. It may not be easy, but it is worth it.
 - C. Shoes of peace – firm-footed stability
 - 1. Remain stable – stable in your confession, stable in your faith, stable in your giving, stable in your emotions, etc.
 - 2. **Exodus 14:9-14** – Hold your peace, and the Lord will fight for you.
 - 3. **Philippians 4:4-7** – Be anxious for nothing. And the peace that passes understanding will keep you.
 - D. Lift up the shield of faith.
 - 1. **Only believe** – no matter what the circumstance is.
 - 2. **John 11:40** – If you believe, you will see the glory of God.
 - 3. **Romans 15:13** – Keep your joy and peace through believing.
 - a. Joy is your strength.
 - b. Peace is power.
 - E. Helmet of salvation
 - 1. Examples of the attack on the mind:
 - a. “God does not love you.”
 - b. “Maybe you’re not even saved.”
 - c. “Why doesn’t God help you?”

- d. “Look at how blessed your friends are. They don’t have these problems.”
 2. Confusion, reasoning, the whole attack on the mind gets very fierce.
- F. Sword of the Spirit
1. The Sword the Spirit wields
 2. Depend on the Holy Spirit to prompt your memory banks for the right “word in due season” that will strengthen you for the battle.
 3. When you know you have a Scripture to fight with, then open your mouth and fight.
 4. When my brother came home, God gave him “no weapon formed against you shall prosper.”
 - a. He had many things to face, and he needed this Scripture from God.
 - b. A *rhema* word is very valuable.

IV. Keep Praying – Lift Up Over All The “Covering Of Prayer.”

- A. Pray for others, not just yourself. Sow into someone else’s problem, and you’ll get a harvest in your own.
- B. **No matter how long it takes – refuse to give up!**

PERSONAL NOTES

Facing New Challenges

I. You Have Not Passed This Way Before.

A. **Joshua 3:2-7** – Follow the ark, and you will make it to your destination.

1. The ark carried the Anointing, God's presence, and His Law or will.
2. Now we carry all of these in our heart. God's Spirit is in us, and He will lead and guide us.
3. We can and should be led by the Holy Spirit.

B. The Lord will do wonders with you.

1. **Ephesians 3:20** – God is able to do more than we can imagine.
2. With God all things are possible.
3. **I believe many of you are about to move into new areas – be given opportunity to do things you have never done before, be confronted with things you have never had to face before. Promotion is just around the corner for many of you.**

C. **I Samuel 10:5-6** – When God Anoints us for something; it turns us into another man.

D. **I John 2:20, 27** – The Anointing abides and teaches you what you should do.

1. I did not know how to be a Bible teacher.
2. I did not know how to go on television.
3. There were many things I did not know, but He taught me. The Anointing taught me and showed me what to do.

4. I was a housewife; but when the Anointing came, I changed. I still took care of my family but **SUDDENLY** my focus changed and my desires changed – **everything changed**.
- E. Smith Wigglesworth was a plumber when the power of the Holy Spirit came on him. He went on to be one of the world’s greatest ministers, raising several people from the dead.
- F. God Anointed Joshua and told him to be courageous and to believe.

II. God Enables Us!

- A. **II Corinthians 12:9** – No need to fear your weaknesses.
 1. **God does not choose people who are able; He chooses those who are AVAILABLE.**
- B. **Philippians 4:13** – We are ready for anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into us.
- C. **Ephesians 3:16** – Be strengthened in the inner man by the power of the Holy Spirit indwelling your innermost being and personality.
 1. Strengthened not to give up
 2. To stand up on the inside no matter what is happening on the outside
 3. **Proverbs 24:10** – *If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.*
- D. Looking ahead opens the door for fear. We don’t have tomorrow’s grace yet!
 1. God gave the Israelites manna for one day only. They had to trust Him for tomorrow’s supply.
 2. The Lord’s Prayer – “Give us this day our daily bread.”

3. **Matthew 6:34** – Don't be anxious about tomorrow; each day has troubles of its own.

Worry over tomorrow steals our strength to deal with today.

III. Are You Following God Or Expecting Him To Follow You?

A. Who is in the driver's seat?

1. **II Samuel 6:3-8** – They put the ark in a new cart and began to drive it around.
2. Uzzah touched the ark because he had become too “familiar” with it.

It had been in his home for years, and familiarity had replaced reverence.
3. Reverential fear says: “God will do what He says, and we better do what He says.”
4. A stubborn, independent, rebellious person says: “My way is better.”
5. A fearful person often prefers his own way. He is more sure of himself than God.
6. Someone who has forgotten that God is not only his friend but also his sovereign may not see the importance of doing exactly what God said.

B. **I Samuel 15:1-23** – Saul kept insisting he had done what God said – when in fact, he had done very little of what God said.

1. Saul was in the driver's seat, and it cost him the kingdom.

C. **Numbers 9:15-23** – Follow the cloud.

1. No matter how many mistakes you make while learning to be led by the Holy Spirit – **NEVER GIVE UP!**

- D. **Romans 8:14** – Following the Spirit is the mark of maturity and sonship.
- E. **Galatians 4:1-2** – A child who is an heir stays under guardians until he matures.
- F. **Galatians 5:16** – Walk in the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.
 - 1. To walk in the Spirit, we must be willing to say “NO” to the flesh.
 - 2. **Galatians 5:17** – The flesh and spirit are opposed to one another.

Get ready for a fight.

IV. Faint Not

- A. To faint means to give up!
- B. **Luke 18:1** – You ought always to pray and not to faint.
 - 1. In other words, don’t give up on anything you know is God’s will.

Examples: Salvation of loved ones, deliverance from bondages, prosperity, healing, etc.
 - 2. **James 1:8** – Some never get a breakthrough because they are double minded. They faint in the middle of the waiting period.
- C. **Hebrews 12:3** – Don’t faint in your mind when you are chastened by God.
 - 1. When God repeatedly deals with you – **don’t give up!**
- D. **Galatians 6:9** – Be not weary in well doing: for **in due season you shall reap, if you faint not.**

