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*"Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary."*  
Galatians 6:9

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# Resiliency, Grit and Determination

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A common theme in literature and cinema is the come-from-behind win, the snatching of victory from the jaws of defeat and the success that comes after what seems to be irreversible failure. People never seem to tire of this theme, and I think one of the reasons is that history and our own experience are full of difficulty, reversals of fortune, defeat and failure. At the same time, history and our own experience also record spectacular successes, victories and achievements that

have come after great pain, hardship and seemingly unrewarded effort. Often what makes the difference between whether someone is ultimately a failure or a success is not their talent or abilities, but just their willingness to keep trying. The ability to get back up after falling down. Resiliency. Grit. Determination. These qualities are of great importance.

Winston Churchill, facing insurmountable odds, told his countrymen to "never, never, never give up." His refusal to give up in the face of what appeared to be all but a lost cause was eventually followed by the victory of the Allies, the defeat of the Axis powers and the return of peace and freedom to the world.

Thomas Edison and his team experimented with countless materials trying to invent a light bulb that had a filament that could last long enough to make it commercially viable. They did not just go through hundreds of failed attempts, but many sources state that well over a thousand attempts with different materials were met with failure before Edison found a filament that would last long enough to make a lightbulb of practical use. This success that came as a result of sheer tenacity still lights our world today.

In the biblical record, whether it was Joseph being sold into slavery, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego being thrown into the fiery furnace or the Apostle Paul going through a series of imprisonments, shipwrecks, beatings and rejection, these heroes of the Christian faith went through





great difficulty and hardship as part of their journey. Their examples are powerful, because of the setbacks and difficulties they went through and they have served to inspire the faithful for generations.

Those who learn that a failure or a setback is only temporary, provided one is willing to get up and try over and over, again and again, are well on their way to preparing their way for success in the future. A low grade on a test, loss in a sporting event or being passed over for a sought-after position is not the last word on eventual success or achievement. Rather, whether or not one tries again or tries something different will more likely be the determining factor on eventual victory or defeat.

In addition to the many different curricular endeavors and academic subjects we teach at Cypress Christian School, one of our key efforts is to teach and develop, in this generation of students, resiliency, grit and the determination to get back up after falling down and to never give up. *Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.* Galatians 6:9