Never, Never, Never Give Up

These famous words are attributed to Winston Churchill. * Actually what he said on Oct. 29, 1941, when he visited Harrow School, his alma mater, was..."Never give in, never give in, never, never, never...never-in nothing, great or small, large or petty - never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense. Never yield to force; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy. — Ok, close enough. I can go with that.

May I request a a favor...your participation in this sermon. If you agree with the sentiment, then say it aloud whenever it shows on the slide...* Never, Never, Never Give Up. Thank you.

* II Thessalonians 3:13...As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. — Now why in the world would God say this? Who would ever get tired of doing right? Well, hopefully it is not tired of doing RIGHT, meaning fed up with the Christian life, but TIRED while doing right. Jesus once said to some tired apostles, “The Sprit is willing (you finish it)...but the flesh is weak.” I know you want to do right, but it can be quite the struggle sometimes. My Christian brethren, we are being urged by God on High...don’t let this happen. Don’t grow weary doing good. — * Never, never, never give up!

* Which is easier? Doing whatever you want, or doing right? Well of course it is doing your will, not the Lord’s will. Not that the commandments of the Lord are grievous or overly hard and difficult. No, the Bible says they are not. And as for consequences, the same Bible says the way of the transgressor is hard. But that being said, I can get weary of saying and doing “Thy will be done.” And the worst thing that could happen? I quit. — No! Don’t quit. Keep fighting. * Never, never, never Give Up.
Others can assist you, comfort you, even somewhat bear your burden for you, but you have got to be wanting to carry on. * Galatians 6:2 teaches Christians to bear one another’s burdens, thus fulfilling the law of Christ. But the same passage in verse 5 also says, each one must bear his own load. There can be no intervention against your will and participation. There can be no lording it over the flock.

He ain’t heavy, he’s my brother is not only a title of a hit song by the Hollies and Neil Diamond, but it is the way of Christian love. In 1884, James Wells, Moderator of the United Free Church of Scotland, in his book The Parables of Jesus tells the story of a little girl carrying a big baby boy. Seeing her struggling, someone asked if she wasn’t tired. With surprise she replied: "No, he's not heavy; he's my brother.” — We see it in war (* show pic) we see it in athletics (* show pic) and also in the Lord’s church. This is what it looks like for fellow Christians. — * Never, Never, Never Give Up! And help one another to never give up.

* Hebrews 12:12-13...Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. — The Holy Spirit is pleading never give up. Stand up...keep going...and make your path straight ahead so that the weaknesses can be healed as you go on. God will lift you up. God will strengthen you to make it to the finish line. It is only a few meters further you have to go. * Show pic of Kenyan marathon runner...just 50 meters further...crawling. But, you must not lay down. * Never, never, never give up!

* Likely, at one or more times in your life, you may be tempted to quit the Lord. Don’t. Please, don’t. Quite likely, even at this moment, right here in this auditorium, someone is discouraged, weary of struggling, disappointed in the brothers and sisters of this congregation, facing severe obstacles in serving the Lord, and is in danger of throwing up his hands and quitting. Please, don’t do it.
Before you quit, I beg you to think again...to think twice about what you would be doing...to look again at the incentives the Lord holds before you; to look again at heaven...and to not throw that all away. It is the devil who is trying to get you to quit. To give up. Don’t let him win. Tell Satan to get behind you and...* Never, Never, Never Give Up!