



Grit:

- *Courage or resolve – strength of character (Oxford)*
- *Firmness of mind or spirit – unyielding courage in the face of hardship or danger (Webster)*

Thinking about things in a healthy way is strongly connected to developing grit.

Philippians 4:8b [NLT]

Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable.

Isaiah 43:14-19 [NLT]

¹⁴This is what the LORD says—your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “For your sakes I will send an army against Babylon, forcing the Babylonians to flee in those ships they are so proud of. ¹⁵I am the LORD, your Holy One, Israel’s Creator and King. ¹⁶I am the LORD, who opened a way through the waters, making a dry path through the sea. ¹⁷I called forth the mighty army of Egypt with all its chariots and horses. I drew them beneath the waves... ¹⁸“But forget all that— it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. ¹⁹For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.”

The past should INFORM us, but we cannot allow it to TRAP us.

Philippians 3:13b-14 [NLT]

“¹³Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.”

Ask Holy Spirit to give you holy IMAGINATION for the future.

How to receive forgiveness from God:

- 1) Admit you, like everyone else, need new LIFE in Jesus.
- 2) Ask God to forgive your sins by the sacrifice of Jesus.
- 3) Receive new LIFE from God by trusting in Jesus as your Savior & Lord.

You can do that now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to live for you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.

If you chose to follow Jesus today, text “FAITH” to 309-250-2007 to receive additional information about next steps in following Jesus.

For Further Reflection:

:: What images come to your mind when you think of the word grit? Reflect upon the people in your life: Who most embodies grit? Why?

:: Pastor Josh mentioned that ‘grit’ is exemplified throughout the scriptures. What are some other scriptural examples of grit that come to your mind?

:: Why is grit so important as a Christ-follower? What are some of the reasons that the scriptures regularly talk about perseverance and endurance?

:: Pastor Josh drew a connection between grit and our thoughts? He mentioned that the way we think about things can make or break our ability to live with grit. How so?

:: Pastor Josh mentioned how the ‘but forget all that’ in verse 18 was a surprising, but powerful, reminder of how the past can trap us. What are some ways that the past has trapped you?

:: Have you ever been trapped by a positive past experience?

:: Have you ever been trapped by a negative past experience?

:: What are the ways that 2020 might attempt to paralyze us from moving forward? Pray for God to open your eyes to anything that could hold you back.

:: Pastor Josh mentioned the need to invite Holy Spirit to sanctify and empower our imaginations for the future? How would this help with developing grit?

:: Is there a specific place in your life where you need to develop grit?

Unless otherwise noted, today’s Scripture is from the New Living Translation [NLT].

Josh Howard (@joshhoward77) – January 2 & 3, 2021

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