

## Devotional

### Godly Grit: You've Got What it Takes!

*"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed"* 2 Corinthians 4:8–9.

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Years ago I worked with a teacher who exemplified the word "grit." Ann (not her real name) was one of those teachers I could always count on. I was a principal when I met Ann. Ann wasn't flamboyant just consistent. Her lessons were not only well-planned but highly excellent and creative. I felt compelled to add the word "highly" to emphasize her impeccable ability to make sure every lesson was the best she could offer. At the center of it all though was her heart. Ann loved her students and would do anything to ensure their learning.

But life wasn't easy for Ann. I soon learned she and her husband had adopted two foster children. Over the years I watched as she painstakingly attempted to provide for these sweet children only to run into many roadblocks that come with children who have been abandoned. You might say at times she was crushed on every side, perplexed, and struck down. Nevertheless, she always showed up to school smiling, prepared, and passionate about her work.

Somehow Ann didn't focus on what she couldn't do or what she didn't have. Ann did not let her circumstances crush her calling. Ann had grit!

Whether you are like Ann and have challenges in your family or whether your challenges come from another place, you too can display grit if you cling to Paul's words: NOT crushed, NOT in despair, NOT abandoned and NOT destroyed.

It's so easy to focus on how we feel (e.g., crushed, perplexed, persecuted, struck down). But feelings don't always reflect truth. I'm not saying we ignore our feelings but we can't let feelings drive the bus. Like Paul, we can acknowledge what is happening but quickly pivot to the supernatural strength that is ours through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit ([2 Timothy 1:7](#)). Embrace the truth of God's word.

Take a moment and sit with your feelings. What is driving your bus? Joy? Peace? Love? Frustration? Confusion? Anger? Is there anything that needs to be sent to the back of the bus?

**Read 2 Corinthians 4:5-10, 16-18.**

Don't lose heart! You've got what it takes! Godly grit is built on the hope we have in Christ. Look to Jesus. This too shall pass and someday you will look back on these times and testify to God's faithfulness.

*Dear Lord, thank you that no matter how crushed, perplexed, persecuted, or defeated I may feel, I am never abandoned. You have promised to never leave me. I will not despair. I will not be destroyed. You are all I need. I will continue to love others as you have loved me. I thank you and praise you. In Jesus name, amen. ©*