

Fight - Week 6 5 Stones



Main Thought: Fight, never give up.

Recently I was standing on the sidelines of a 7th grade football game, volunteering on the chain gang. What a great place to observe the game up close. Of course, being the father of a player this was tough as I wanted to shout, but it wouldn't be prudent since I was serving on the sideline. Before the game started, it was obvious that this game would be a mismatch, as the opposing team looked bigger, stronger, and faster. Within a few minutes into the game, we realized it was going to be a long game when the strongest kid on your team is getting hit and flying backwards a few yards.

The score was 28 – 6 in the 4th quarter and the opposing team was winning with no effort. The clock showed four minutes left and they decided to punt with fourth and 2 yards to go. They sent in their punt team, the older, stronger, bigger kids and ran a fake punt to get a good 15 yards and a first down. Of course, I'm asking "why?" since this is 7th grade football and they possess a commanding lead. Not the point.

Not giving up, my son's team held their ground and refused to let the other team score. Matter of fact they recovered a fumble. Now with 2 minutes left and the length of the football field, they drove! 10 yards here, 15 there and with 13 seconds on the clock the QB threw a deep pass to the three yard line. The coach called a timeout and with three seconds left on the clock, they punched it in for a touchdown. The score was now 28-12 and the referees lined up the ball for the extra point. The coach for the opposing team asked, "What are you doing?" The referee replied, "The extra point." To which the coach said, "sort of pointless, don't you think?" Sort of pointless? Maybe to this coach who had already won the game, but to the team that was getting beat, it wasn't pointless. They never gave up. Every play mattered!

Outsized, out muscled, and out matched – they never gave up! It wasn't about the scoreboard; it was about playing until there was no time left on the clock. On the field, every play matters and we are responsible to give our best on each play.

Off the field, does every effort matter? Maybe you have read one of the famous Chicken Soup For The Soul books? Did you know that the author went to 35 publishers and faced rejection after rejection? Finally, on the 36th attempt to publish his book, he found someone who said "yes." Soon afterwards, he sold over 75 million copies! Off the field, in your job, every attempt matters!

Finally, every play, every attempt, and every day matters because your life will leave a legacy for generations to come. This past summer I heard a story about Private Michael Link who fought with the PA151 unit in the Civil War. At the young age of 24 Michael found himself fighting in a heated battle. His General was shot and killed, and within a short time span Michael was shot in the face. He lost both eyes. He lied motionless on the battle field, with no one attending him, believing he was dead. Three days later, he was found and placed in medical

care. When they discovered Private Link, there were maggots in his eyes, which ate the infection, keeping him alive. Although blind, he built two, three-story houses. Gaining more education, he taught others music, and did incredible things even though he was blind. Michael Link was married and had a daughter named, Rosa Link. Follow the family tree a few generations and you will meet speaker Tim Valentine. Tim shares encouraging truth with hundreds possibly thousands of lives. Michael Link could have lie on that battlefield and given up. He could have felt sorry for himself and his blindness, yet every breath mattered to Michael. Generations unborn can be affected by your choice to not give up!

By the way, the maggots saved the life of Michael Link, as they ate the infection out of his eyes. Maybe the maggots in our life are meant to destroy the bad things and keep us alive for greater things?

In I Samuel 17, we read that David's father sent him to check on his brothers, not fight a giant. And when David arrived at the battle scene, his brothers gave him a cold welcome and tried to send him home. King Saul wasn't too thrilled about David trying to fight Goliath. It seemed that David wasn't supposed to fight, but inside he knew he was supposed to fight for God. He didn't give up. He was reluctantly allowed to fight...and the rest is history!

What is your pain? What is your battle? In the face of opposition, rejection, and discouragement press on! Fight to the finish.

FOCUS - Fight, never give up. There are times when you know it's the right thing to fight for, don't give up. When the world is saying, "sort of pointless" or "does it really matter?" You know it matters and you choose to fight!

DO HARD THINGS: Anyone can play, not everyone finishes. What is it that you are tempted to give up on? Choose today to not give up. Look at the maggots in your life as possible life savers and live with a new passion today to create new things for tomorrow.

