

One important character trait of a warrior is perseverance.

This essay, below the Scripture reference, is excerpted from "The Warriors Heart Revealed," by Daryl Covington & Joseph Lumpkin, pp.24-26, and gives a good description, we feel, of why we must have a warriors mentality, not just as martial artists, but as followers of Jesus Christ.

*"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing."*

- 2 Timothy 4:7-8

"As we study the Old Testament, we find it teaches of our need for a savior. The Old Testament promises His coming. It teaches us in symbols and types about His purpose and His nature. The New Testament proclaims His life, death, resurrection, and imminent return. We see and understand our need for a savior.

Yet, in our study we often skim over these few scriptures containing His ministry and words. Out of a volume of 66 books, there are only four short books that contain His life. Most of those small works repeat one another. So often we overlook the very seed and core of our faith; those books of His life, His ministry, and His sayings. What was Jesus trying to tell us?

Certainly He was telling us we need Him and should accept Him as Savior and Lord. We know He came and died, as payment for our sins, but there is more. Jesus also told us how to treat each other and how to live our lives. This message we must shout from the rooftops. With this message we cannot be silent.

To the woman caught in adultery, He did not condemn her but gave her another chance. He said "GET UP". To the daughter who had died, leaving her father no hope, He gave hope. He said "GET UP". To Lazarus, His best friend, who lay in the grave three days and was completely without life, He gave him life. He said "GET UP".

To Paul, who was knocked down, beaten, thrown in jail, and held in prison, He gave him courage to go on. He said, "GET UP". On the third day the Father told Jesus "GET UP". And when He comes for me, I may be dead, working in the field, laboring on the rooftop, sweating in the mill, or asleep in my bed, but the words will be the same. With the sound of a trumpet, with the voice of an archangel, we who believe will all hear Him say, "GET UP, GET UP, GET UP!" You cannot win unless you keep getting up. You cannot be victorious in the battle unless you keep getting up. We will all fall, but He said "GET UP". We will all fail but we must GET UP. The world is not our friend. It would see faith in God fail, but we must keep getting up!

We fight an enemy who wants to knock us down, keep us down and see us ruined. But Paul said, I may be knocked down but I am not out! Paul proclaimed we were to finish the race. He got back up! Solomon said, "Here is a righteous man, a man who although he falls seven times, he keeps getting up!" Jesus said to those caught in sin, "GET UP"! To those who have sorrow, "GET UP"! To those who have lost all hope, "GET UP"! The only way to fail is not to get up. YOU MUST GET UP!

He will be there when the race is over. He will meet us when our battle is through. GET UP! It is time for Christians to unite. Tell those you love to GET UP; help those in need to GET UP; strengthen those who have fallen and HELP LIFT THEM. Tell them to GET UP. Do not punish, do not judge, do not condemn. Our fight is with Satan and those who would keep us down. Our fight is with the world, not with each other. Though the world hates us, politicians loathe us, friends forsake us, judges won't let us pray, laws are made against our will, government steals our land, our money and our rights; though we are tested with sickness, debt and despair, GET UP! It is not over – GET UP! He is coming soon. GET UP! GET UP! GET UP! And teach your children to keep GETTING UP!

If you want to know why we train in the martial arts, if you wonder why we worship God, if you are puzzled as to why we fight against our limitations; it is to have the strength in our spirits and the will of mind to keep getting up until Jesus comes again."