



NO GRIT. NO PEARL.

- Hebrews 10:32–39
- In the above scripture, it is said that “we have need of endurance.” This comes from the fact that life isn’t easy. Even our most basic, fundamental needs are often only met through intense effort.
- Called by many names — determination, resilience, fortitude, endurance, perseverance — grit is a divine quality that is required of all of us. But why do so few seem to possess it? Many people struggle with self-doubt, weakness, self-pity, and a lack of resolve when the “going gets tough.”

FAILURES

- Who were the supposed failures of the Bible? Who were the people who refused to quit when they were not immediately successful at something?
- Paul was stoned in Lystra (Acts 14:19–22), but got back up and moved on — even coming back to Lystra some time later! It might have been tempting for Paul's detractors to point to his many setbacks and assume he was a somewhat blundering figure (1 Cor. 4:10ff, 2 Cor. 11:23ff).
- Time does not allow us to look in detail at the lives of Ruth, Joshua, Moses, Jeremiah, Hezekiah, John, Esther, Noah...

A photograph of a mountain peak with a person standing on a ridge in the foreground. The mountain is rocky and covered in sparse vegetation. The sky is overcast.

STARTING SMALL

- Do we get so upset by an obstacle that we fail to see the nugget of wisdom in our circumstances? The psalmist certainly appreciated his affliction (Ps. 119:71).
- Sometimes the best we can do to cultivate grit is to start small. Look for the little lesson, the small opportunity, the incremental step toward growth or recovery.
- Get up. Go to work. Say the next prayer. Pay the next bill. Take that phone call. Go back to school the day after being bullied.

A dramatic landscape photograph of a mountain range. In the foreground, a dirt path leads up a grassy ridge. The middle ground shows a series of jagged, rocky mountain peaks. The sky is filled with heavy, grey clouds, creating a moody atmosphere. The overall color palette is dominated by greys, browns, and muted blues.

GRIT

IS USUALLY FOUND IN THE
ORDINARY

NOT THE EXTRAORDINARY

FAILURE IS A TEACHER

- It has rightly been said that “failure is always an option.” In fact, you’re being naïve if you go into any endeavor without anticipating some initial failure.
- Resilience isn’t found in always sticking to tasks that are easy, skills you’ve already mastered, or avoiding potentially challenging situations. It’s found in failure (and the accompanying lessons learned).
- Galatians 6:7–10, 2 Thessalonians 3:13
- Matthew 24:12–13 — Be in it for the long haul, through all the ups and downs. Decide in advance that the desired outcome is worth the obstacles.

A photograph of a rugged mountain landscape. A dirt path leads up a steep, rocky slope covered in sparse, dry vegetation. In the background, more jagged mountain peaks are visible under a cloudy sky. The image is framed by dark blue horizontal bars at the top and bottom.

DO HARD THINGS

HEBREWS 5:7-9, 1 PETER 2:19-25

TAKE YOUR LUMPS

- Learn how to be offended, how to accept criticism, and how to let arguments die before they start. Grit is often not found in what you say, but in what you choose not to say — it's the quality of practicing self-control and self-discipline with your words (James 1:19–21). Our angry outbursts and petty, self-righteous excuses do not achieve righteousness!
- We need to learn that hours-long arguments on social media do not produce anything but frustration. We need to stop making excuses for our mistakes and simply say, "You're right. I'll try to do better." We need to stop casting our pearls before swine and let willfully ignorant people be ignorant.

TAKE YOUR LUMPS

- Luke 10:25ff — A certain lawyer couldn't stand being outsmarted by Jesus, so he tried to "justify himself" in verse 29. This only provided further opportunity to be outwitted.
- 1 Samuel 13:8–14 — King Saul refused to take responsibility for his error, instead offering a laundry list of pathetic excuses.
- Genesis 3:8–13 — "It was this woman you gave me..." "It was the serpent who deceived me!"
- Ecclesiastes 10:4
- Compare the excuse-makers, self-defenders, and social media justice warriors to Jesus, who was silent as a lamb being led to slaughter.