

# Don't Give Up

Niccolò Paganini (1782 – 1840), Italian composer and violinist, was the most celebrated violin virtuoso of his time.

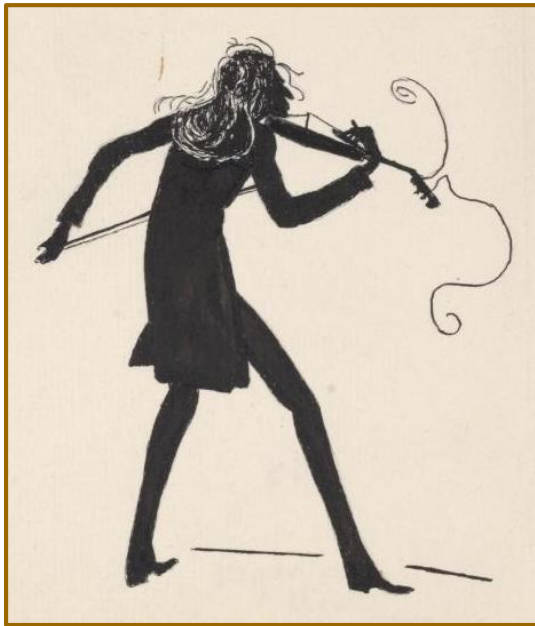
He once was performing before a distinguished audience when, suddenly, one of the strings on his violin snapped. The audience gasped.

The master technician, however, continued to play on the three remaining strings as if nothing had happened.

Snap! A second string broke. Paganini played on without hesitation. Then, unbelievably, a third string gave way with a sharp crack.

For a brief moment, the violinist stopped. The audience knew what had happened, and that he couldn't continue.

But he calmly raised his famous Stradivarius violin high with one hand as he announced, "One string ... and Paganini!"



With a tremendous, furious skill and the matchless discipline of a gifted artist, he finished the selection on a single string. The performance was done with such matchless perfection that the audience rose together to give him a standing ovation.

There is a lesson for us in that account of this amazing musician. There are times in all our lives when one string after another seems to snap. It would be easy to quit, easy to lower our standards and easy to forsake our values. But it is much more rewarding to continue.

When we struggle through circumstances that would make quitters out of lesser men and women, we come to understand the real meaning of the word, *winner*.

The challenge? Set your goals to be a winner in all of life. And keep your eyes focused on them. Don't give up!

*I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus* (Philippians 3:14 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter