

## His Finest Hour

Sir Winston Churchill, the irascible leader of Britain during World War II, is one of the most well-known world leaders of modern times.

People often forget he is also associated with one of the most ignoble defeats in modern British history – the disastrous Gallipoli campaign of World War I that forced his resignation from the admiralty in 1915 and nearly destroyed his career.



Quit? Not Winston Churchill. In fact, 25 years later on May 10, 1940, he succeeded Neville Chamberlain as prime minister. The days that followed are considered among the darkest of all of British history.

World War II brought with it Dunkirk and the fall of France. London found itself bombed nightly during the infamous blitz. It was precisely during these times that Churchill urged his compatriots to conduct themselves so that “if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, ‘This was their finest hour.’”

Did Churchill ever have doubts about the outcome of the world conflict that threatened to destroy all that he loved? It would only be human.

Regardless, he lived his challenge to his countrymen. He did, indeed, conduct himself so historians consider that time to be his finest hour. In simple terms, Churchill “walked the walk and talked the talk.”

In that sense, Churchill and other world leaders we admire are not so different from each of us. We, too, are challenged to live every day with integrity and consistency. We are just as capable of living our lives in such a manner that when we face our challenges it can be said of us, it was our finest hour.

– Beecher Hunter