

Never Give Up

A man went sailing one day and was caught in a terrifying storm.

His little boat was no match for the elements and broke apart on the ocean. He hugged his life jacket to his chest as the waves crashed over his head.

By morning, the storm had ended and the sea was calm. The man spotted a small island in the distance.

He was grateful to have made it ashore, but soon grew depressed at the thought of being stranded who-knows-where on a nameless, unpeopled parcel of land. He built a small hut out of driftwood and palm leaves for shelter, foraged for edible vegetation, and he passed his days exploring what he hoped would be a temporary home.

Weeks passed, then months, and the man began to despair that he would live out the remainder of his life in solitude and isolation. After a day of hiking on another part of the island where food was scarce, the man returned to his camp exhausted and famished to find his hut engulfed in flames.

The man fell to his knees and sobbed uncontrollably. He had never known such defeat and was uncertain if he could go on. As he drifted off to sleep, he thought, “Why? Why me?”

The next morning, he was awakened by the sound of voices. He opened his eyes and saw three sailors pulling ashore a small motorboat. They ran up to him and asked if he was OK.

“How did you know I was here?” the man asked them.

“We saw your smoke signal yesterday,” they replied.

Perhaps you are distressed – even to the point that you are uncertain if you can go on – because of circumstances in your life. Take courage, and don’t give up.



Author Harriet Beecher Stowe said: “When you get into a tight place and everything goes against you, till it seems as though you could not hang on a minute longer, never give up then, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn.”

The Apostle Paul, who endured persecution, arrests and trials of many sorts, offered this advice:

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer (Romans 12:12 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter