

## Feel Like Quitting Yet? (Rev. Rob Heffernan)

It doesn't take long in life to confront a temptation everyone faces – to quit. Don't get me wrong, sometimes leaving a job or changing a relationship is very much justified and needed. But all too often we experience that temptation, as old as the devil Himself, to just give up

This week, you turned on the news and found evil being spewed out by Neo-Nazis, the KKK, and White Nationalist the likes of which hasn't been seen in decades. There are two world leaders having something akin to a 5-year old shouting match with nuclear bombs in their back pockets. Do you like what is happening? It can be discouraging, disappointing, and in the case of Virginia, hurtful and frightening. It might even tempt you to give up on people in general.

Well, there are beautiful words that go like this, "suffering produces perseverance, perseverance produces character, and character, hope" (Romans 5:3,4). Yes, life is hard. Yes, life hurts. We want it to be easy. We want it to be painless. So, we are tempted to quit. To quit, however, implies that what is happening to you or out there is not worth the fight, not worth standing up against, not worth living through. And it leaves out those around you who may be counting on your presence and help more than you realise. Don't be so hasty in your decision to give up. The purest gold is produced in the hottest fires until all the foreign elements are removed. Perhaps the struggle you face is making you a better a person, a more committed person with deeper character and a stronger hope in something greater.

When you leave a problem, the problem often goes with you; usually because you were the problem. Life forces you to look in the mirror. But you can't run from yourself. The question really is not do you feel like quitting, but *why* do you feel like quitting? Why do you keep giving up, going from relationship to relationship? What are you scared of? Fear is often why you can't look in the mirror; you're scared of what you might see.

I have good news for you. It's called grace. This is what you need and what the world needs. You don't have to run anymore; after all it's exhausting. Let God forgive you. Receive forgiveness and do one of the hardest things of all – forgive yourself. Those precious words continue, "And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us." (Romans 5:5)

Instead of living by fear, you can live by faith and experience real love from above. An organic love that heals, that transforms, and that gives true life. Jesus came to give us abundant life, remove fear, and help us to become truly human. Don't run away anymore; run to Christ instead who will help you live through any circumstance, and even use you to help change the situation around you.