



**When a White Flag Wins**  
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**Hebrews 11:1-2, 13, 36-40; 12:1-4**

*Surrender* is a word often used to describe defeat, especially in battle when the weaker army 'waves a white flag' signifying that it gives into the dominant one. And yet, surrender is one of the most empowering and positive life-changing concepts in Christian living.

Today, as we remember those who fought and gave their lives for the freedom we enjoy, we also remember those who fought and gave their lives to set an example and yet did it by way of surrender...

1. The importance of REMEMBERING
2. The EXAMPLE of those who have gone ahead of us

*Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation.* Hebrews 11: 1-2 NLT

*All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth.* Hebrews 11:13 NLT

*Some were jeered at, and their backs were cut open with whips. Others were chained in prisons. Some died by stoning, some were sawed in half, and others were killed with the sword. Some went about wearing skins of sheep and goats, destitute and oppressed and mistreated. They were too good for this world, wandering over deserts and mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground.*  
*All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised. For God had something*

*better in mind for us, so that they would not reach perfection without us.*  
 Hebrews 11:36-40 NLT

3. When the WHITE FLAG wins...

*If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?" Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: "Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do the same. And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. If I must die, I must die."* Esther 4:14-16 NLT

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people;[c] then you won't become weary and give up. After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin.*

Hebrews 12:1-4 NLT

Once upon a time and throughout history, Jesus followers have behaved differently... they surrendered...

**Reflection Questions**

- Is our present version of Christianity worth the price somebody paid for it?
- Is your version worth shedding blood over?

Today and every day, "Remember, don't grow weary, and don't lose heart."