



FCA Wrestling – Team Huddle

Week 14: It's Never Too Late. (James 1: 2 – 3, 12.)

In the 2002 NCAA finals at 184 lbs., Lehigh's Rob Rohn was repeatedly turned for near fall points by his opponent, Josh Lambrecht of Oklahoma. Trailing 14-3, and with only a minute to go in the match, the television commentators began to predict a win for his opponent. Almost no one thought Rohn had time to make a comeback. However, with a minute left in the final period, Rohn fought his way free to the neutral position, and threw a desperation "cement job" on his opponent, resulting in a tight pinning hold. With just 14 seconds remaining in the NCAA finals, Rohn pinned his opponent and pulled off a stunning victory. In wrestling, a pin means it is never too late to pull out a win, no matter the score or the situation. *In life, God wants us to know that no matter what our past is, or what the situation we face is, that it is never too late for us press on, and make a comeback.*

James 1: 2 – 4 says, "Consider it all joy my brothers, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect (mature) and complete, lacking in nothing."

God's timing for our lives is often different than ours. We may think it is too late to resolve a problem. The odds seem to be against us and it's too late to do anything about it. We can rest assured, however, that our heavenly Father knows exactly where we are in our lives at every moment. In fact, God often uses trials to strengthen our patience and our character, allowing our Christian faith to mature and become complete (James 1:3-4). It is the 'tests' of life that cause us to rise up to the challenge. Like exercise builds muscle, the tests of life build our inner strength and character. That is why James said, **"Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."** Those who never give up, but persevere in following God's will for their life, they will eventually gain the ultimate victory, receiving 'the crown of life' from the Lord. *So remember, no matter what your circumstances are, it is never too late ... (whether in wrestling, or in life), to gain the victory.*

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you had moments when you were way behind in a wrestling match, and felt like there was no way you could win?
2. When you felt that way, did you give up, or keep fighting for victory?
3. Have you ever felt that you were in a hopeless situation in life?
4. Do you know where to turn for help in those times? God wants you to know that you can turn to Him for strength and help. He will pull you through if you don't give up, and keep persevering for the right things.

CONCLUDE WITH A SHORT PRAYER