

# County-Wide Chaplaincy

## Thanks you!

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March 2024

### GRIT

In her book *Grit*, Angela Duckworth explains how the power of “passion and perseverance” or “determination and direction” is a major factor in successful performance.

In the opening chapter she explains the research that was conducted on various groups, including West Point cadets, sales professionals and even spelling bee contestants. The question the researchers had was essentially, what can explain the success of those who performed the best versus those who did not? Was it skill, talent, knowledge or something more?

Essentially she discovered it was none of those things; it was mostly due to the level of passion and the determination of the individual or, what she describes as....Grit.

This would be the “never give up, never give in” attitude that we see from time to time in successful people in all walks of life, even though we may not recognize it at the time. In professional sports, whether teams or individuals, seems at times to be based on who wants it most or the team that “laid it all on the field.” Successful achievers often times also have incredible stories of overcoming obstacles, yet never relenting...think of Dr. Ben Carson, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and more. Many local small business owners and other entrepreneurs have had to overcome many obstacles to survive and thrive. It seems that, at least according to Ms. Duckworth, Grit, rather than talent, is a significant factor.

And, how about us? Does Grit play a role in successful ministry? Many pastors, worship leaders, evangelists and all who have a calling to serve, likely will have to employ Grit at some point in their ministry. When times get tough, whether due to financial challenges, relationship problems or more...it's time to get Gritty.

After all Jesus was our example. He said we should all “take up our cross and follow Me.” The cross, back in those times wasn't the token of comfort that we see it as today; it was a sign of death by crucifixion, and humiliation. For us, to take up our cross, we have to die to ourselves in the service of God and others, and be prepared to walk through the persecution the world throws our way. In other words, it's not an easy road...it requires Grit.

As Chaplains, we have to exercise Grit from time to time, whether it is on scene where a loved one has just passed unexpectedly, or whether it's knocking on a door at night to notify someone they lost a child in an auto accident. The vision is clear and simple, in that we want to honor God by bringing His presence to a challenging situation but it's certainly not...easy.

Jesus is our example. Not only did he command us to take up our own cross, but he was the one who actually did it. He followed through as Hebrews 12:2 says “for the joy set before Him

He endured the cross” and, He did it willingly with steadfast perseverance. He definitely had Grit.

All of us are called to obedience, and we need to have Grit. We must die to ourselves, serve others, and encourage one another along the way. Being passionate about loving God and our neighbor, and being determined or steadfast, and never giving up is what Grit is all about.

Thank you for your support!

Chaplain Rob

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