



Too Close to Quit | Bianca Juarez Olthoff | 07.20.2024

Weekly Study

SHARE

As group members get settled, take a few minutes to check in with everyone and see how life is going. Share an exciting story from this week, your highs and lows, an answered prayer, or something you're struggling with. If someone is really struggling, rally the group around them and take a few moments to pray over them.

Share a high and a low from last week.

How would the twelve-year-old version of you have reacted if a bicycle gang tried to steal your pizza?

GROW

Welcome to Week Three of Book Club! This week, guest pastor Bianca Juarez Olthoff reminded us that we are *Too Close to Quit*. The Word of God is full of promises, but we often grow tired and weary waiting for them to be fulfilled, especially when they don't happen on our timeline or look the way we expected. Many of us give up just when we are on the brink of the breakthrough we've been desperately waiting for. However, by showing up with grit and resilience and fixing our eyes on the help that comes from heaven rather than the obstacles in front of us, we can lay claim to the fullness of God's promises in our lives.

Read Joshua 6:1-20

What was your biggest takeaway from Bianca's message?

When you look at your life, do you only see walls? Explain.

Share a moment or season in your life when you heard a promise from God that was vastly different from your reality. How did it test your faith?

What promise or miracle are you close to giving up on? Explain.

MOVE

In the Word, God often speaks in the past tense about a future reality. Victory is promised by God, but stepping into that reality requires us to actively lay claim to those promises through faith, with grit and resilience. God promised the Israelites more land, provision, and blessing than they could have possibly imagined, but they only laid claim to about 10% of what God promised because they were more concerned with the circumstances of their reality than the consistency of God's faithfulness. They forgot what God had promised them because the road to get there looked different than what they had imagined. Their faith was fueled by what they could see rather than what God had promised, and because of that, they lost their way.

If we ever hope to step into the fullness of God's promises for our life, we must continue to walk by faith, with grit and resilience. To do this, Bianca shared four characteristics we must develop as we continue our walk:

1. Perspective
 - a. Perspective is an honest acceptance of reality while remaining anchored in truth and hope.
2. Progress
 - a. We must continue to progress despite a lack of progress (keep showing up even if it seems like nothing is changing).
3. Pivot
 - a. Trust that God will direct your steps at the right time and place when needed.
4. Purpose

- a. Remember that there is a purpose for the pain, the frustration, and the waiting, even though we may not understand it in the midst of difficult seasons. You are not forgotten, and no part of your story is wasted.

Read Isaiah 40:27-31 ESV, James 1:2-4 NIV

What are your thoughts on Bianca's Four Ps to build grit and resilience? Explain.

Which one is your greatest strength? Which one do you struggle with the most? Explain.

How do the verses above relate to this week's sermon?

You're too close to quit. What do you need to keep fighting, to keep showing up, to keep believing in the promises God has spoken over your life? How can this group support you?

P R A Y

Spend the last few minutes praying for the promises each member is waiting on. Pray for renewed strength, faith, hope, and grit as you step into the business of this week, even if it feels like nothing is happening.