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“Rise Above” by Pastor Jack Hibbs

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” Galatians 6:9 (NKJV)

I often stop and ponder the lives of those who have served us well, such as Abraham Lincoln. His Gettysburg Address is masterful, his statesmanship and accomplishments are impressive, but it's his personal life that amazes me. Dogged by business failure, personal loss, political defeat, family crises, and severe financial difficulties, Lincoln endured challenges that would have crushed the average man. But Abraham Lincoln was not average.

How does the Lord fit a man or woman to accomplish great things? Conventional wisdom would

say it's a life filled with benefits and blessings. Yet, decades later, President Roosevelt commented that Lincoln's life embodied "not the doctrine of ignoble ease, but the doctrine of the strenuous life."

That Abraham Lincoln was different is not in doubt. But how is it that he exhibited fortitude instead of resignation? Lincoln himself provides the answer.

"Take all this book upon reason that you can, and the balance on faith. I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom, and that of all about me, seemed insufficient for the day."

God strengthens those who wholeheartedly seek Him amid stress and strain. By turning to Him

in His Word and prayer, you can rise above your impossibilities to do the improbable. And in Him, you will not be average.

Pastor Jack Hibbs is the senior pastor at Calvary Chapel in Chino Hills, CA. His ministry, which

includes “Real Life with Jack Hibbs”, is seen via YouTube and on the app named for the ministry. The church's website is www.Calvarycch.org.

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