

## A Determined Spirit

### ***Introduction***

Read the following or relate it in your own words.

Nothing is accomplished in this life without a determined spirit. There are always excuses for not getting the job done, but a determined spirit figures out how to overcome the excuses and succeeds. And nothing is accomplished for God without a determined spirit.

### ***The Scripture***

Read the Scripture to the group.

*“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”* —Hebrews 12:1

### ***A Real Life Example***

Read the following or relate it in your own words.

#### Tommy’s Job

The bright sun was burning hotly as Tommy worked in the area that was to be their new garden. This morning his dad had asked him to clear all the rocks out of the soil. They were going to plant the garden this weekend, and it needed to be done. It was hard work. He was sweating profusely and his hands were developing blisters.

“Oh, there are a lot of rocks!” he exclaimed, “and boy does my back hurt!” He straightened up and stretched. “I don’t know if I’m going to be able to get them all out before Dad gets home,” he thought to himself. Dad would be home in another couple of hours. “I’d really like to finish before Dad gets home. I know that he will be surprised if I get it done so soon.” Tommy looked at the rest of the garden that he had to do. He was only about a third of the way through, and it was already 4 o’clock. “I will get it done!” he said determinedly. “But if I’m going to get it done, then I’d better get moving!” he grinned. Tommy went back to work picking the rocks. He worked quickly, and just as Dad was driving in the driveway, he threw the last rock into the wheelbarrow and emptied it on to the pile.

### ***Questions for Discussion***

1. When Tommy stopped to rest for a minute, what were his thoughts?
2. What decision did Tommy make?

3. How did the trait “determination” help Tommy make his decision?
4. How do you think it would have turned out if Tommy would have made a different decision and not had determination? When might he have finished?
5. If Tommy had not finished on time, how would that have affected the entire family’s plans?
6. How was Tommy’s determined spirit a blessing to his father?

### ***Conclusion and Resolution***

Read the Scripture again. Read or explain the conclusion in your own words. Ask the group to suggest what specific changes that they can resolve to make in their daily lives that will help them to implement needed changes in this area. Ask them to especially consider things they have learned in the Bible to use as scriptural guideposts to a more competent and productive life.

*“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”* —Hebrews 12:1

As the Scripture says, we all have weights that slow us down, or that may even stop us, but we need to be determined to lay them aside and get the job done, whatever the job is. We need to have patience and just keep working until we finish. If it takes an extra long time, if we endure some pain, if we miss out on something else, that is okay. We need to stay with it. Others may be counting on us, and we should not let them down. And our God has given each of us a work to do, and we should press forward with it.

### ***Teacher’s Notes***

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