

SHEDDING LIGHT ON GUMPTION

Introduction...

In our modern society we don't hear much about gumption any more. Too bad, since we need it more than ever these days. I was raised on gumption and I like to think, so were my own children, especially when I was trying to motivate them.

Seems a shame that such a grand old word has dropped through the cracks, especially since quitting is now more popular than finishing.

Can't you just see it as a whole new academic field - "Gumption 101" – in some university catalogue? That will never happen, however, since gumption is better caught than taught.

As is true of most character traits, it is woven so subtly into the fabric of one's life that few ever stop & identify it. It is hidden – like the thick steel bars set within concrete columns that support freeway overpasses... & while gumption may be hidden, it's a "most important tool" for getting the job done.

Gumption enables us to save money rather than spend every cent we make. It keeps us at a hard task, like practising piano or losing weight... & keeping it lost... or reading the Bible all the way through in a year's time.

Most folks get a little gumption in their initial birth packet... but it's a tool that rusts rather quickly. So here are some pointers that will help you keep it well-oiled:

1. Gumption begins with a firm commitment. **Daniel 1:1-8; Joshua 24:14-15**
2. Gumption means being disciplined one day at a time. **Proverbs 4:12**
3. Gumption requires being alert to subtle temptations. **Prov.13:20; 24:30-34; 25:28**
4. Gumption requires the encouragement of accountability. **Proverbs 27:17**
5. Gumption comes easier when we remember that finishing has its unique rewards. **Acts 20:24; 2 Timothy 4:7-8.**

Conclusion...

If the journey seems extra long just now, enjoy a gust of wind at your back from these words out of "The Living Bible"... it's one of those gumption Scriptures:

"Let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged & quit." (Galatians 6:9)

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