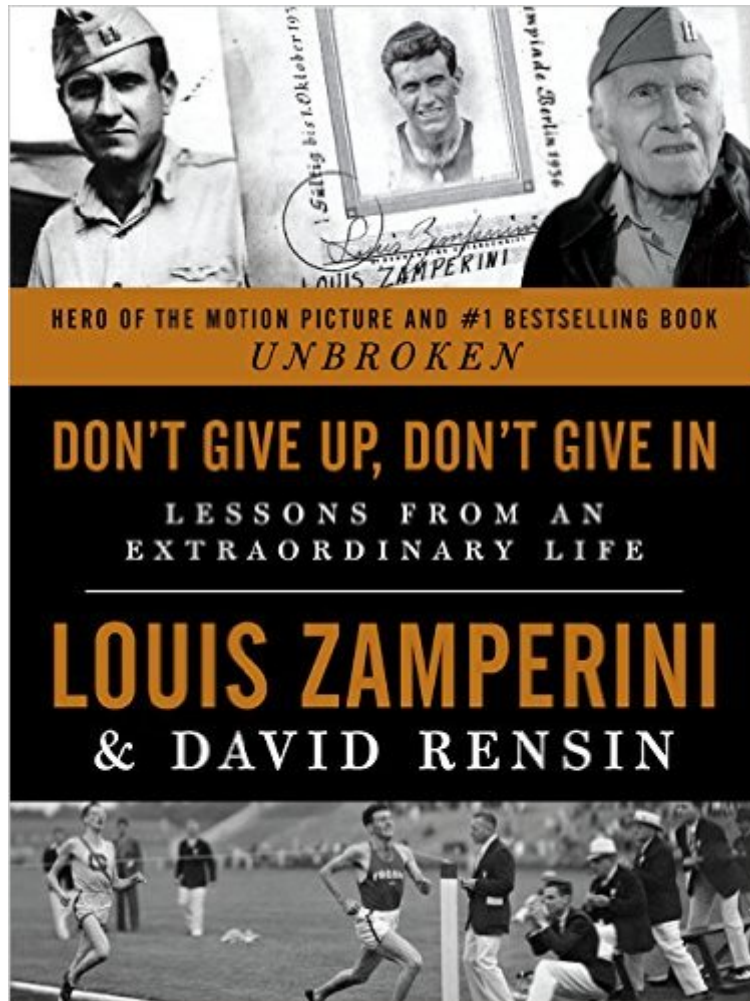


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# Don't Give Up, Don't Give In: Lessons From An Extraordinary Life



## Synopsis

New York Times bestseller More than 100,000 copies in print Completed just two days before Louis Zamperini's death at age ninety-seven, *Don't Give Up, Don't Give In* shares a lifetime of wisdom, insight, and humor from one of the most incredible American lives of the past century. Zamperini's story has touched millions through Laura Hillenbrand's biography *Unbroken* and its blockbuster movie adaptation directed by Angelina Jolie. Now, in his own words, Zamperini reveals with warmth and great charm the essential values and lessons that sustained him throughout his remarkable journey. He was a youthful troublemaker from California who turned his life around to become a 1936 Olympian. Putting aside his track career, he volunteered for the army before Pearl Harbor and was thrust into World War II as a B-24 bombardier. While on a rescue mission, his plane went down in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, where he survived against all odds, drifting two thousand miles in a small raft for forty-seven days. His struggle was only beginning: Zamperini was captured by the Japanese, and for more than two years he courageously endured torture and psychological abuse in a series of prisoner-of-war camps. He returned home to face more dark hours, but in 1949 Zamperini's life was transformed by a spiritual rebirth that would guide him through the next sixty-five years of his long and happy life. Louis Zamperini's *Don't Give Up, Don't Give In* is an extraordinary last testament that captures the wisdom of a life lived to the fullest.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

DON'T GIVE UP, DON'T GIVE IN is a book co-authored by one of the greatest figures in modern

times, Louis Zamperini. Sadly, Louis is gone now; the co-author, David Rensin, notes that the manuscript of this book was delivered to the publisher just days before Zamperini's death. For those readers who don't know much about Louis Zamperini, you are in for a treat. If you have already read the bestseller, UNBROKEN, you know what I'm talking about. If you haven't read it yet, stop what you're doing, and go get it today: *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*. Louis (or "Louie," as he was known) Zamperini was a man of great character and even greater forgiveness. A wild delinquent as a youth, he perfected ways to commit petty crimes and not get caught. One of his more creative crimes was using a fishing pole to steal merchandise from inside a store. Facing punishment for his many larcenies, he was forced to run in a race. So, he learned to run. At first, he was not very fast (his smoking didn't help), but he quickly excelled, and went on to set records. He competed in the 1936 Olympics, where a young Adolph Hitler remarked on his quick finish. (Zamperini, not quite done with his youthful pranks, later climbed a pole to steal a Nazi flag.) As an aviator in World War II, he became a prisoner of the Japanese under brutal circumstances. He was beaten almost daily by an especially sadistic captor. Yet he endured and survived. After the war, he was a bitter man, full of hate and he dreamed of vengeance on his captors.

I had heard of Louis Zamperini from his affiliation with the Billy Graham organization because my Mother admired Reverend Graham. But I did not dig into his life story. Of course the biography and movie *Unbroken* put this fine man in the public eye in a very prominent way. I wanted to read HIS words, so I got this book. While I admired the movie, I was disappointed that it focused only on his story as a prisoner of war after being lost at sea. I think the really important part of his life was his struggles after he came home and then his conversion to Christ. Of course, that makes our age most uncomfortable. But without that, he would have been just a brave POW who came home and fell apart with drink (as my grandfather did after WWI) and was destroyed by PTSD (which they called battle fatigue or some such). All the Olympics and his war experiences became significant because of his conversion and the way he used his life and experiences to bless, motivate, teach, and lead others — especially troubled youth. He understood troubled youth because he was one himself. This book tells the various stories from his life, but with the purpose of illustrating points he wants to make to help people live better, happier, more positive lives. He never holds himself up as a paragon to emulate, but uses his stories to illustrate what he did wrong, what is possible, and how he found the right way and used that path to help others with the message that you can, too! He talks about the focus, strength, and lessons that running gave his life and what appearing in the Olympics meant for him. He talks about the importance of being prepared for what life throws at

you, because you won't be able to anticipate it all. And you need a sense of humor, as well.

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