



Persevering July 26, 2020

We are studying foundational truths of the Bible that tell us who we are in Christ. Knowing our identity in Him gives us a foundation to stand on and build our lives on in crazy times.

“When we know who we are, we can act rather than react.” —Pastor Rob O’Neal

[Q] What has been cancelled or changed for you, or, what have you had to give up in recent months?

Last week we saw how we are adopted children of God. This week we’ll see that because we are children of God, we are called to persevere. What is perseverance? Underline the phrase(s) below that resonate with you:

remaining steadfast in a rocky situation

holding fast to Jesus, committed to Him no matter what

faithfulness, endurance, patience, not giving up, continuing obedience to God

not drifting, not careless, not negligent, never giving up

Not Forgotten

How can we develop the character quality of perseverance? It starts with knowing that we are not forgotten, that we are sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father, loved and cared for by Him.

Read Psalm 121.

[Q] List what you learn about God from Psalm 121. What is His character like? What does He do?

[Q] How does trusting that the Lord vigilantly cares for and keeps you make a difference in trying times?

I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

Psalm 16:8 (ESV)

[Q] Many of life’s challenges do not last a few minutes or hours, but rather weeks, months, or long years. We can feel forgotten. What is the timing of God’s care according to Psalm 121:8?

Look to Jesus

The Christian life is like a race, and we’re all runners. Jesus led this race with perseverance.

Read Hebrews 12:1–4.

[Q] What did Jesus endure? What kept Him going (v. 2)? What effect should His example have on us (v. 3)?

[Q] Why does a runner need “perseverance” or “endurance”? Why do we need it in the Christian race?

APPLY

[Q] How is your running going? Are you flying or fading? What is slowing you down—a bad habit; a wrong relationship; an unresolved issue; a particular sin? What will you do about it?

[Q] What perspective might verse 4 give you as you go through difficulties?

Train Like a Loved Child

Read Hebrews 12:5-13.

[Q] Discipline is the big theme in these verses and suffering is part of God’s training plan. Why is discipline a good sign (v. 5-8)?

[Q] How should we respond to our heavenly Father’s loving discipline (v. 9)?

[Q] In what way is discipline for our good as God’s children (v. 10-11)?

[Q] According to the following verses, what might we miss out on if we don’t persevere?

James 1:12

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

James 1:25

But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

Galatians 6:9

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. (NIV)

Romans 5:3–4

Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. (NIV)

The more we persevere in the Christian life, the more God grants His blessings upon us, thereby enabling us to continue to persevere. —gotquestions.org/Bible-perseverance

APPLY

[Q] In which ways are you being asked to stay faithful this week? (this month? this year?) How does the example of Christ spur you on as you ask for His help?