

“Walk in Faith” Series
“Faith to Persevere and Persist”
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Note: Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are from the NIV Bible.

“Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised” Hebrews 10:35-36 (KJV).

G3954 Confidence = boldness, boldness in...speech, openness, plainly, public.

Hebrews 10:37-39 “FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY. BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM. But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.” (Emphasis added.)

Persevere and Persist

Persevere = to continue doing something in spite of difficulty, opposition; be steadfast in purpose; and persist

Persist = to refuse to give up, especially when faced with opposition or difficulty; continue firmly or steadily

The Revelle Bible Dictionary - As a character trait, perseverance is desirable, even though it comes through painful experiences.

Suffering Produces Perseverance

Romans 5:1-2 “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.” (Emphasis added.)

- Justified through faith
- Access by faith

Romans 5:3-4 “Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

Testing of your Faith Produces Perseverance

James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

- When it gets hard we are tempted to look for an easier way out.
- Count it [consider it; think it] all joy!
- Let perseverance finish its work of maturity in you.
- Let perseverance make you complete so that you lack nothing.

We Have Confidence in the Blood of Jesus

Hebrews 10:19-25 “Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

A Corporate Expectation

Five Phrases to encourage “US” to persevere.

1. Let Us Draw Near.

Hebrews 10:22 “let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.” (Emphasis added.)

- Draw near with a sincere heart full of assurance of faith.
- Saying No to the Old and Yes to the new
- Spend significant time

2. Let Us Hold Fast.

Hebrews 10:23 “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful...”

- Hold = keep in memory, possess, retain
- Hope = to anticipate with pleasure, expectation
- We cannot hold fast to our faith all by ourselves.

3. Let Us Consider One Another.

Hebrews 10:24 “...and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds...”

- Stimulate = to stimulate strongly, arouse, incite to riot.

In Two Areas

- Love – it is not an emotion but a choice to act regardless of our feelings. We are to act lovingly toward other believers.
- Good deeds – works done for the good of others and which attract others to Christ.

4. Let Us Not Give Up Meeting Together.

Hebrews 10:25 "...not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near."

- To withdraw from corporate strength is to invite disaster. It is like a soldier in battle who lags behind the rest of his platoon and becomes an easy target.

5. Let Us Encourage One Another.

WE are responsible for each other.

Hebrews 3:13-14 "But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called 'Today,' so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end..."

- Encouragement to keep your heart from being hardened by the deception of sin.
- Encourage one another while it is still called today because the night comes when no man can work (John 9:4).

Hold firm your confidence until the end.

- A. Gathering together for corporate worship services should be our top priority.
Don't try to squeeze it in.
- B. We used to live in an era when no one would compete with Sunday mornings or Wednesday night Bible Study. Now our society views it as open free time to be filled with almost any recreational attraction.

Gathering for worship is both an essential witness to Christ and a valuable time for spiritual nourishment.

1. Let us draw near to God.
2. Let us hold fast.
3. Let us consider one another.
4. Let us assemble together.
5. Let us encourage one another.

1 Peter 2:5 "...you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."