Hitting the Wall

Shawn Jeffries · 2 Peter 1:5–7

INTRODUCTION

- Can we hit a wall? Can we suffer fatigue and burnout? Can we fail to make it to the spiritual finish line? I submit to you that we can.
- That word perseverance that Peter uses there in 2 Peter 1 and verse 6 is a word that means endurance. It means steadfastness and patience.

1 Why We Need Perseverance

2 Peter 1:6; 2 Corinthians 11:23–28

- One reason why perseverance is so important in this process of spiritual transformation. It's because, number one, being a Christian isn't always easy.
- Five times I received from the Jews 39 lashes, three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked.
- We need perseverance because we get discouraged.
- Some of the most discouraging people we meet in our lives are not people outside of the family of God, but instead they're people inside the family of God.
- Thirdly, we need perseverance because this journey we're on, this race we're running. It's long. It's a marathon, it's not a sprint.

2 We Get Perseverance by Suffering

James 1:1–4

- The first way we get perseverance as Christians is according to the Bible, we get it by suffering.
- Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience, perseverance, endurance, and that endurance have its perfect result so that you may be perfect.
- While they can be painful, while they can hurt and wear us out and wear us down and be an uphill battle for us, the Bible says trials can also bless us.
- When we start suffering in our lives, we need to remember that those periods of suffering are opportunities.

3 Being Inspired by Those Who've Already Finished the Race

Hebrews 12:1; Hebrews 11

- Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us.
- The message of Hebrews 11 is not, hey, you can't be like those people because those are super disciples. No, the message of Hebrews 11 is you can be like those people.

- Ordinary people who, despite making a ton of mistakes in their lives, they trusted God, they had faith, they persevered, and they completed the spiritual race.

4 Leave Behind What Weighs Us Down

Hebrews 12:1–2

- Let us lay aside every encumbrance. Some translations say every weight and the sin. There it is. The sin which so easily entangles us.
- We got to stop dabbling in sin, flirting with sin, justifying our sins.
- We got to fix our eyes on Jesus. Why do we got to fix our eyes on Jesus? Well, because Jesus had exactly what we're trying to get.
- He endured the cross and accomplished the will of God. Jesus persevered at the highest level.

5 Stay Focused on the Prize

Philippians 3:12–14; 2 Corinthians 4:17–18; 2 Timothy 4:6–8

- Forgetting what lies behind, and reaching forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
- Momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory, far beyond all comparison.
- I have fought the good fight. I have finished the course. I have kept the faith.
- The thing that helped him endure and persevere and keep going was the reward waiting for him at the finish line. It was heaven.

6 Pray and Not Lose Heart

Luke 18:1–8

- Now he was telling them a parable to show them that at all times they ought to pray and not lose heart.
- If this bad guy will listen to and bless this widow, how much more will God, who is a loving father, do the same for us?
- One of the keys to endurance is prayer according to Jesus.
- We need to pray and have faith that God is good. And He's listening.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Are you persevering? Are you persevering in the cause of the gospel? Have you even begun that process?**

MY NOTES