

"I'm In" - Persevere

September 22, 2026

I'm In.

Craig Smith • September 27, 2026 • Persevere

Heaven is cheering us on to persevere on mission...

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. (**Heb. 12:1**)*

*May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance. (**2 Thes. 3:5**)*

Why we grow weary...

- **Some fruit is invisible** – “I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying, ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.” (**John 4:35b-38**)

- **Some seasons are discouraging*** – “Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” (**Heb. 12:3**)*

Spiritual anchors that keep us engaged in the mission...

- **Eye the prize (focus)** – *“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly... (1 Cor. 9:24-26a)*

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Heb. 12:2)

- **Stack the hands (community)** – *“Do your best to come to me quickly...Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.” (2 Tim. 4:9, 11)*

- **Water the opportunities (faithfulness)** – *“Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. (Col. 4:5-6)*

“Small choices + consistency + time = radical difference”
(Darren Hardy, The Compound Effect)

Never forget that anything and everything you do on mission is never a waste in God’s economy...

Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. (1 Cor. 15:58)