

North Summit Church
Devoted - Perseverance
Series Wrap-up

Announcements:

- **Youth Group Kick-off 3rd**
- **Mid-week service September 10**
- **Praying about getting involved if you aren't already. Email this week.**

Revelation 3:10

"Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth."

[Prayer]

Introduction:

- **Today I want to wrap up our devoted series with an exhortation on perseverance.**
- We have worked through a bunch of spiritual disciplines this summer. It has been an incredible journey. It has been particularly rich for me personally as we have looked at these gracious ways God has given us to know Him more personally and intimately.
- And as we conclude and look back on the myriad of ways God beacons us into deeper communion with himself, I think it is appropriate to frame this entire series with a call to faithful perseverance.
- **As pointed out in Revelation 3, in the angels exhortation to the church of Philippi, Perseverance is more than just holding.**
- There's a profound difference between white-knuckling through difficulty and truly persevering in faith.
- **[Mountain Climber Analogy]**
 - Two mountain climbers halfway up a treacherous peak. One climber clings desperately to the rock face, paralyzed by fear, simply trying not to fall. Another climber, facing the same conditions, moves deliberately upward—not because the climb is easy, but because they're absolutely certain of reaching the summit.

- This distinction captures the heart of biblical perseverance. It's not merely about surviving spiritual storms or enduring hardship.
 - **True perseverance is endurance infused with unshakeable confidence in God's character and promises.**
 - **It rests in the finished work of Christ who already showed us the route up the mountain.**
- The church at Philadelphia received this commendation from Christ: "Because you have kept my word about patient endurance." The Greek word here, *hupomone*, carries the idea of remaining under pressure while actively moving forward. It's not passive resignation to reality—it's dynamic, purposeful persistence grounded in absolute assurance.
- **Today I want to look at three truths that can help us both understand and live out a life of Biblical perseverance all for the glory of God.**

Point 1: Perseverance Teaches Us to See with Kingdom Eyes

- *We can't see the full story of what God is doing in His divine plan.*

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

"So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen."

- We live with a fundamental limitation: we experience life chronologically, moment by moment, while God operates from eternity. It's almost impossible to see what God is doing in real-time. We're reading the story sentence by sentence while God has written the entire book.
- Look at Joseph in Genesis. Sold into slavery by his brothers, falsely accused and imprisoned—for years, his circumstances seemed to contradict every divine promise. Yet decades later, he could declare, "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good" (Genesis 50:20). Only through perseverance could Joseph see God's redemptive plan.

Romans 5:3-5

"Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

- Notice the progression: suffering → endurance → character → hope. As we persevere through each stage it refines our ability to see with Kingdom eyes.
- **The constant human experience in this broken world is hardship. It's not whether we will face trials but rather which trials we will go through.**
- **The difference then is how we will respond to the trials that come our way.**
- **David's heart in Psalm 13.**
- The stress of waiting for God is real. But perseverance teaches us that divine timing operates on different principles than human urgency. What looks like delay from our perspective is often God doing His good sanctifying work in our lives so that we can be more like Christ.

James 1:2-4

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

- Perseverance doesn't just endure testing—it allows testing to complete its sanctifying work in us. Only then do we see what God has been accomplishing through our difficulties.

Point 2: Perseverance Leaves a Legacy of Faith

- ***Our perseverance is our greatest testimony and leaves a mark on the world***

Hebrews 12:1-2

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us

run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith."

- Your perseverance is never just about you. It joins a chorus of faithful witnesses whose endurance echoes through generations, encouraging others to press forward.
- The "cloud of witnesses" mentioned in Hebrews 12 represents believers whose perseverance left a mark on history ultimately pointing to the Christ's ultimate faithfulness.
 - Noah persevered through decades of building an ark while facing ridicule.
 - Abraham persevered through years of waiting for God's promise.
 - Moses persevered through wilderness wanderings and stubborn people.
 - Their stories continue to inspire faith thousands of years later.

2 Timothy 4:7-8

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing."

- Paul's perseverance wasn't just personal victory—it opened the door for "all who have loved his appearing." Our faithfulness creates spiritual momentum for others.
- **Think about how perseverance impacts others:**
 - **Your family:** Children learn more about faith from watching their parents navigate difficulty than from any sermon they'll hear. Your perseverance teaches them that God is trustworthy even when circumstances aren't favorable.
 - **Your community:** Colleagues, neighbors, and friends observe how you handle pressure. Your perseverance becomes a silent but powerful testimony to the reality of your faith.
 - **Future generations:** Like those in Hebrews' hall of faith, your perseverance contributes to a legacy that will encourage believers you'll never meet this side of heaven.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises

self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable."

- We're not running just for ourselves...we're running for an imperishable crown and leaving a path for others to follow.

Point 3: Perseverance is Active Faith, Not Passive Endurance

- ***Perseverance means more than just hanging on...it's refusing to believe our King will be conquered***

Philippians 3:12-14

"Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

- Biblical perseverance is not passive resignation or fearful clinging. It's active, deliberate, forward movement fueled by absolute confidence in Christ's ultimate victory.
- Paul uses athletic imagery: "press on," "straining forward," "toward the goal." This is vigorous, intentional action.
- Perseverance works deliberately, knowing with certainty that God will never be defeated.
- We believe that love, justice, forgiveness, and kindness will ultimately triumph.
- Why, because Christ has already done it!
- And here is why this is so important when we are talking about the Spiritual Disciplines.
- They all flow from the reality that Jesus has already won.
- In the incarnation, Jesus has gone before us in everything.

Hebrews 10:35-36

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 is promised.

- Notice the connection between confidence and endurance. Perseverance isn't gritting our teeth and hoping for the best—it's maintaining confidence while actively doing God's will.
 - Perseverance combines endurance with absolute assurance
 - It's grounded in Christ's finished work, not our effort
 - It transforms trials into tools for spiritual growth
 - It actively works while waiting for God's timing

So remember...

- When hopes seem disappointed, they're being purified
- We persevere not just through difficulty, but toward God's promises
- Our perseverance is an act of worship, declaring our confidence in God's character
- **So often we want a way around, but Jesus gives us a way through.**

Paul reminds us of the purpose of perseverance:

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

- Even our perseverance through difficulty becomes a resource for encouraging others—another way our faithfulness leaves a lasting mark.

Conclusion - Three takeaways for living with Kingdom perseverance:

- **Trust the Process:** Remember that you can't see the full story from God's perspective. What seems like meaningless suffering may be the very tool God uses to accomplish His greatest work in and through you.
- **Consider Your Legacy:** Your perseverance is never just about you. Others are watching, learning, and being encouraged by your faithfulness. Press on not just for your own spiritual growth, but for the faith of those who come after you.
- **Work Deliberately:** Perseverance isn't passive endurance—it's active faith. Continue to serve, love, and obey even when you can't see immediate results. Work with the absolute assurance that Jesus Christ has already secured ultimate victory.

- Perseverance isn't about becoming stronger—it's about becoming more convinced of God's strength.
- It's not about seeing more clearly—it's about trusting God's perfect vision. It's not about holding on tighter—it's about holding on to the right things.

Question:

- Today, where do you need to move from passive endurance to active perseverance?
- What situation requires you to see with Kingdom eyes rather than circumstances?
- How might your faithfulness in this moment contribute to a legacy that encourages others?

[COMMUNION]

Hebrews 6:19

"We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain."

- Where do we find the strength day in and day out to persevere?
 - At the foot of the cross, our eyes transfixed on the one who persevered on our behalf.
- He is the one who has made the way, not around the difficulties and challenges that come our way, but through them!
- Continue to persevere spiritually, knowing that your anchor holds not because of your grip, but because of His.

"Because you have kept my word about patient endurance..."

May this commendation be true of us as well, as we seek to live lives of devotion to Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Next week we start the book of Hebrews

