

Here to There

When the Going Gets Tough

AUGUST 28, 2022

For most of us, we'd like to accomplish our goals as fast and as easy as possible. But to move us from here to there, God often pushes us to develop and underappreciated tool—perseverance.

MESSAGE NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- For many of us, delay is disappointment, and acceleration is accomplishment.
 - God often puts us on the scenic route.
 - Perseverance is continuing on towards your goal in spite of difficulty or lack of success.
 - The need to persevere is part of God's good plan for us.
 - 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. | James 1, vv.2-3
 - Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. | James 1, v.4
 - God is more concerned about our character than our comfort.
 - For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. | Romans 8, v.29
 - God's plan for you from before you were born was that you'd be shaped and molded to become like Jesus.
 - We need to stress and exercise our faith in order for it to grow and get stronger.
 - These were all commended for their faith, yet they did not receive what was promised. God had planned something better for us, so that together with us they would be made perfect. | Hebrews 11, vv.39-40
 - 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, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. | Hebrews 12, vv.1-2
 - Jesus isn't a means to an end; Jesus is the end goal.
 - "My relationship with God was no longer the tool through which I could accomplish great things; my relationship with God was the great thing."
 - May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance. | 2 Thessalonians 3, v.5
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some of your favorite shortcuts you take to save yourself time, effort, or energy?
2. Can you think of something you had to endure or persevere that helped you become stronger, wiser, and/or prepare for what was down the road?
3. If God is more concerned about our character than our comfort, how might that change the way you think about or approach your current challenges?
4. Have you ever tried to use your faith or Jesus as a means to an end? What changes if you view Jesus as the end goal rather than the means to an end?