

PERSEVERING FOR THE LORD

I. RUNNING THE RACE FOR GOD

The Christian life is a marathon, and you need to learn to run for God. In most every endeavor, you need to persevere to be successful, and so too in the Christian life. 2 Timothy 2:5, 12

II. BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF PERSEVERANCE

Noah (Genesis 6-8), Abraham (Genesis 12-21), Joseph (Genesis 37-50), Naomi (Ruth), Daniel (Daniel), Jeremiah (Jeremiah 25:3), Paul (1 Corinthians 11:23-28)

III. WHY IS IT DIFFICULT TO PERSEVERE?

There is little fruit. There is little progress. As a parent, there are challenges with children, and it's hard to keep going. There are many obstacles and setbacks, and you want to give up. There is a particular sin area, and you are tired of struggling. You keep having spiritual battles. You keep struggling with sickness, with ailments, and you are physically, emotionally, and spiritually weary of it all. You have been a Christian for a long, long time, and it's just hard to keep going.

IV. SOME KEYS TO PERSEVERING FOR GOD

A. Get more physical rest, get physically recharged. 1 Kings 19:3-8

B. Get time with God so you can spiritually be recharged and refreshed. You need God and you need to spend time with Him. Psalm 63:1-5

C. Be regularly reminded and refreshed by the love God has for you. Psalm 119:159, Psalm 86, Jude 21

D. Pace yourself. Sometimes there's a lot on your plate and you need to go at a good pace, not too fast and not too slow. Remember you are in a marathon, and you need to prioritize the things you do.

E. Take one day at a time. Do the things God wants you to do on that day. Do not worry about what you need to do tomorrow. Matthew 6:34

F. Do what God wants you to do, that is, carry out God's will. Trying to do what God does not want you to do will wear you out. Make sure you pray. Luke 10:40-42, Hebrews 12:1-2, Psalm 119:56

G. You need God's power, God's grace, God's Spirit to do what God wants you to do. Do God's work in God's strength. You can only persevere by the power of God. Ephesians 5:18, 1 Corinthians 15:10, Philippians 4:13

H. Know that God will keep you going. God is personally involved in your life, and will keep you going to the end of your life, and make sure make it to heaven. 1 Corinthians 1:8-9, Philippians 1:6, 1 Thessalonians 5:24, 2 Timothy 4:18

I. Be determined, have your heart set on persevering for the Lord, no matter what may happen. Psalm 119:8, 32, 112

J. Know and believe the promises of God. They give you hope, a reason to live for God, reminding you that there are blessings awaiting you. Psalm 18:28, Isaiah 40:31, 2 Chronicles 15:7, Matthew 11:28-29, 1 Corinthians 1:8, 1 Peter 5:10, Jude 24-25, Galatians 6:9

K. See the big picture of your life, where you have come from, where you are at now, and where you are going. Psalm 23:6, Romans 8:30, 1 Corinthians 1:30-31, Colossians 3:3-4

L. Observe the example of Jesus, and how He kept going when it was so difficult, when people were against Him, when the devil attacked Him, when He physically and emotionally suffered. Hebrews 12:1-3; John 2:17 – *"Zeal for your house will consume Me."* Isaiah 50:7; Luke 9:51, 13:32-33

M. Know that there will be fruit, that there will be blessings, progress, and victory as you persevere for God. Galatians 6:9

MY HEART IS STEADFAST, O GOD, MY HEART IS STEADFAST;
I WILL SING, YES, I WILL SING PRAISES TO GOD...
I WILL AWAKEN THE DAWN... I WILL GIVE THANKS TO YOU...
Psalm 57:7-11

SOME QUESTIONS TO ANSWER:

1. What is the main thing that you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. Why is it hard for you to persevere, to keep going for God?
3. What will happen if you don't persevere for God?
4. What Biblical examples of perseverance motivate you to keep going for God?
5. What are some of the main things you need to do to persevere for God?
6. Why are God's promises necessary to be able to persevere for God?
7. Take time to think about and be encouraged by Jesus' example of perseverance.