**The Perseverance of a Disciple** Session 9

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*Therefore, among God’s churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.*

2 Thessalonians 1:4

There will be seasons of struggle as a disciple. Times of tears, fears, and uncertainties. Times when the cost of being Christ’s disciple seems almost too much to bear. Our struggles may last an hour, a day, or even years, but eventually it will subside and something else will take its place. But if we quit and give up, that will last forever. As disciples let’s not forget, if God is for us, who can be against us? We are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus who loves us.

The picture above is one of the most spectacular mountains in the United States. It is in the state of Alaska. The mountain rises over 4,500 meters above sea level. If you are fortunate enough to see the top of this mountain (and I use the word “if” for a reason) it is quite impressive. It is called the Fair-Weather Mountain. The reason being, the view of this mountain can only be seen about 20 days out of the year when the weather is fair, and the fog has not set in. Life can feel like this at times. The fog of life can be so thick that it hinders us from seeing anything with clarity. When we are having difficulty seeing through the fog of uncertainty, this session will remind us to lean in on Jesus and trust and persevere in Him and Him alone.

*“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me you might have peace. In the world you will have much tribulation but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world.”* John 16:33

**Group Exercise:** Look up Hebrews 10:32-39

Read the passage to yourself and then have someone in the group read it out loud.

***Helpful Notes:*** Background on Hebrews. Paul addresses Jewish Christians who are being persecuted for putting their faith in Christ and getting pressure from other Jews to return to their Jewish rules and regulations. Paul reminds these believers that Jesus is greater! Greater than angels, creation, Jewish rituals, Jesus is greater than all. This is a call to hold on, to stay the course, to remain faithful to our Lord in a world that tries every day to knock us down. So, whether it’s a season of physical, relational, spiritual, or emotional hardship. We persevere no matter what. If God is for us, who can be against us?

***Perseverance is the ability to withstand, to do something***

***despite difficulty or delay in order to achieve success.***

**5 things to remember in the difficult seasons of life from Hebrews 10:32-39**

**#1. STAND YOUR GROUND (vs.32)**

**Question:** What is Paul encouraging the believers to remember in verse 32? Why is this important for them and why is this important for us?

*All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.* Matthew 10:22

*If you do not stand firm in our faith, you will not stand at all.* Isaiah 7:9



**#2. STAND WITH OTHER BELIEVERS (vs.33)**

**Question:** What are the benefits of the body of Christ standing with one another?

*How good and how pleasant it is when brothers/sisters dwell together in harmony/unity!*

Psalm 133:1

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.* Hebrews 10:24-25

**Group Exercise**: Sing a song together and then share how God has blessed you and your ministry because you have stood firm in your faith as a disciple for Jesus?

**#3. BETTER AND LASTING POSSESSIONS ARE AHEAD (vs.34)**

**Question:** What do we have waiting for us, that is so much more than the possessions we hold onto here?

*Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.* James 1:12

*Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.*

Psalm 20:7

**Helpful Notes:** There is a greater reward ahead for us who persevere. Don’t worship those things that won’t matter or won’t change. Worship the One who satisfies the soul and gives purpose for today, tomorrow, next year. . . the next 50 years.

**#4. DON’T THROW AWAY YOUR CONFIDENCE (vs. 35-36)**

*In the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge.*

Proverbs 14:26

*Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.* Philippians 1:6

*The name of the Lord is a strong tower, their righteous run to it and are safe.* Proverbs. 18:10

**Group Exercise:** Take a moment and encourage each other not to quit during a difficult season they are going through.

**#5. DON’T SHRINK BACK (vs. 37-39)**

Don’t retreat, don’t go back to your old ways, don’t give up on the Lord.

**Application: Living it Out!**

When difficult seasons come, look back and see how the Lord has been faithful in showing you:

* His **Presence**
* His **Power**
* His **Provisions**
* His **Protection**

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