

# PERSEVERANCE

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## INTRODUCTION

**WINSTON CHURCHILL – “Never give up... Never give up.”**

### **MY LIFE PHILOSOPHY – TURTLE and RABBIT**

Poster n my wall many years - THE RACE IS NOT ALWAYS TO THE SWIFT BUT TO THOSE WHO KEEP ON RUNNING.

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE!!! Hebrews 12

***Heb 12:1-3 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.***

***2 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.***

***3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.***

perseverance = faithfulness

### TRANSITION

Look at Heb 12:1-3 - learn about perseverance

### **CHALLENGE GIVEN 3b**

### **WE TEND TO GET WEARY AND QUIT**

***not grow weary and lose heart. 3b***

written to Jewish bel who lost everything, about to DISCOURAGEMENT great problem among Christians

***"Heartbreak Hill." In the Boston***

## TRANSITION

RUNNING METAPHOR used by writer

GET RID of anything holding you back

DON'T QUIT, keep going

KEEP EYES ON THE GOAL, Jesus

## I. LET US THROW OFF 1b

### A. EVERYTHING THAT HINDERS

***Heb 12:1 let us throw off everything that hinders***

RUNNER: heavy clothing, heavy shoes, etc.

SPIRITUALLY - OK things but slows up spiritual growth

## WHAT IS HOLDING YOU BACK IN YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE?

Fear of rejection, failure

Lust for things and pleasures God says 'no' to

Pleasing people around you

Laziness that keeps from meaningful daily devotions

Not study Bible, learn; Not attend church

Greed for money, things

Focus on appearance

Using opposite sex to meet needs

Wrong priorities – too busy (examples)

Bad habits

## TRANSITION

So we need to throw off whatever holds us back

And what tangles us up

### B. SIN THAT SO EASILY ENTANGLES US

***the sin that so easily entangles,***

RUNNER: long robe tangled up in, etc.

SPIRITUALLY – NOT OK what keep us from growing, trip up

## WHAT IS TRIPPING YOU UP IN YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE?

'Favorite' sin you don't want to let go of  
Secret activity you know is wrong  
Anger, unforgiveness, bitterness  
Disobedience, something you know God wants you to do

## WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU FALL DOWN?

*Eric Lindell (Chariots of Fire) won 440 after falling down*

## TRANSITION

RUNNING METAPHOR used by writer

THROW OFF

Anything holding you back

Anything tripping you up

DON'T QUIT, keep going

## II. LET US RUN WITH PERSEVERANCE 1c

### A. EACH MUST RUN A RACE

#### *the race*

life is a RACE: from here to goal, finish line

PAUL uses that analogy from the Olympics often

Takes focus

Takes determination

Takes self-discipline

Takes training and practice

Life not a PICNIC, panic and fuss when things get hard

Life is a RACE – against self, sin, world, flesh, Satan

*MARATHON RUNNER fall, crawl to finish*

GOD DETERMINES the course of your life

Where born, gifts & personality, strengths and weaknesses,

## **B. EACH MUST RUN THEIR OWN RACE**

***marked out for us***

Each have DIFFERENT RACE to run

Different obstacles, challenges, difficulties

FINISH LINE same: God's glory, being more Christ-like

***CROSS COUNTRY in HS – flags marking course***

TEMPTATION: think our life so much harder than anyone else!

Different, but not harder or easier

RACE NOT EASY: obstacles in way

Tired, weary of keeping going

## **C. EACH MUST KEEP RUNNING**

***Run with perseverance***

NOT run with speed

BUT run with perseverance

***Why the TURTLE beat the RABBIT***

NOT some times doing great in Christian life, growing, praising,

Other times act no different than those not Christians

BUT steady, consistent, faithful

## **TRANSITION**

RUNNING METAPHOR used by writer

THROW OFF Anything holding you back

Anything tripping you up

DON'T QUIT, keep going

FOCUS ON THE GOAL

### **III. LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS 2**

#### ***2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus***

RUNNER looks ahead,

NOT at other runners

NOT at scenery

NOT at conditions, weather

NOT at self, how feel, tired, etc.

BUT at goal

Or get off track and wander in wrong direction

Or stop running entirely, sit and rest

JESUS must be our reason for living, our goal

***2 Corinthians 5:7 We live by faith, not by sight.***

FOCUS ON JESUS, not self, etc.

***Colossians 3:1-4 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory***

#### **TRANSITION**

Several important truths about Jesus in this verse:

#### **A. HE IS THE AUTHOR OF OUR FAITH**

***the author ... of our faith,***

AUTHOR of a paper, book knows it better than anyone

Copyright rights to it

JESUS knows the Christian life better than anyone else

Jesus knows US better than anyone, even us

HE STARTED the Christian life in us so He is in control of it

#### **TRANSITION**

STARTS our faith and oversees it

ENSURES ITS GROWING TO MATURITY

## **B. HE IS THE PERFECTOR OF OUR FAITH**

*perfecter of our faith,*

So He can get us thru everything

Won't quit, give up – carry us through to end forever!

BECAUSE HE IS THE AUTOOR & PERFECTOR OF OUR FAITH we are motivated to persevere

### **TRANSITION**

We are to persevere keeping our eyes on Jesus

He is the BEGINNING of our faith, the one in charge of it

He is the FINISHER of our faith, bringing us to maturity

He is the EXAMPLE for our faith

## **C. HE ENDURED THE CROSS**

*who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame*

***3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men***

EXAMPLE OF: keeping eyes on goal

Perseverance no matter what

He paid for it all

He knows what it is like

No matter what we face, Jesus knows it, He understands it.

There was a joy set before Him through which He endured the cross – the joy of the Lord was His strength and it is ours.

**KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE CROSS**

Keeps everything else in perspective

Example for us

Goal for us

What He did for us more than what we do for Him!

## **D. HE IS SEATED AT GOD'S THRONE**

***and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.***

VICTORY through perseverance

Race doesn't last forever, soon over

Then joy, victory, blessing with Him

KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS to keep a steady course in life

***CLIMBING MT – keep eyes on point to reach***

**CHALLENGE FULFILLED 1bff**

***so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.***

***James 5:10-11 Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.***

**CONCLUSION**