

Some journeys can turn out to be longer and harder than we thought

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The Christian life can be longer and harder than expected

Jesus said: "Because of the increase of wickedness, **the love of most will grow cold**, but **the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.**"

Matthew 24:12-13

"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

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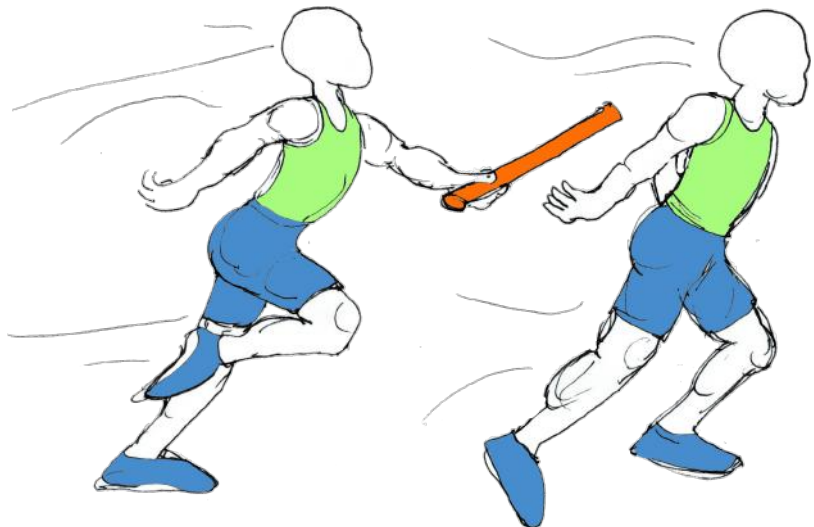
The Christian life can be harder and longer than expected

Where does the strength come from to be faithful to the end?

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Our Living Salvation Hebrews 7:11-28

ref.ly/He7;niv



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The story of God's people

God is life, which He freely gave to people

God designed people to be in relationship with Him

But there was a problem...

"Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save,
nor his ear too dull to hear.

But **your iniquities have separated you from your God;** Wrong thoughts,
words, or actions

your sins have hidden his face from you,
so that he will not hear." *Isaiah 59:1-2*

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The story of God's people

Their sins separated God's people from God

But God made a way

- At the "ark of the **covenant**" God met the people
- Surrounded by the tabernacle to keep people away
- Only the **high priest** could enter once a year
 - From the tribe of **Levi** and the family of **Aaron**
- Only after sacrifices, that had to be repeated
- And when that priest died, another took his place

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While all of this was still active...

"The LORD says to my lord:

The LORD has sworn

and will not change his mind:

**'You are a priest forever,
in the order of Melchizedek.'**" *Psalm 110:4*

Melchizedek was not in the line of Aaron, or of Levi,
or even of Israel or of Abraham

→ The Law, the sacrifices, and the priesthood were
never enough to fully restore people to God

Nothing inside the universe can restore us to God

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Hebrews 7:11-19

¹¹ If **perfection** could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood—and indeed the law given to the people established that priesthood—why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? ¹² For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed also. ¹³ He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. ¹⁴ For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

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¹⁵ And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, ¹⁶ one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. ¹⁷ For it is declared:

“You are a priest forever,
in the order of Melchizedek.”

¹⁸ The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless ¹⁹(for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

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Hebrews 7:20-22

²⁰ And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, ²¹ but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him:

“The Lord has sworn
and will not change his mind:
‘You are a priest forever.’”

²² Because of this oath, **Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant.**

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Hebrews 7:23-25

²³ Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office;
²⁴ but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

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Hebrews 7:23-25

²⁶ Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. ²⁸ For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

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Hebrews 7:25

Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

When we pray...

- We don't fully know God's will
- Sin still clouds our thinking and our hearts
- Our fellowship with God is not yet perfect

When Jesus intercedes...

- He fully knows the Father's will (and agrees)
- With clarity and purity of thought and heart
- In perfect fellowship with the Father

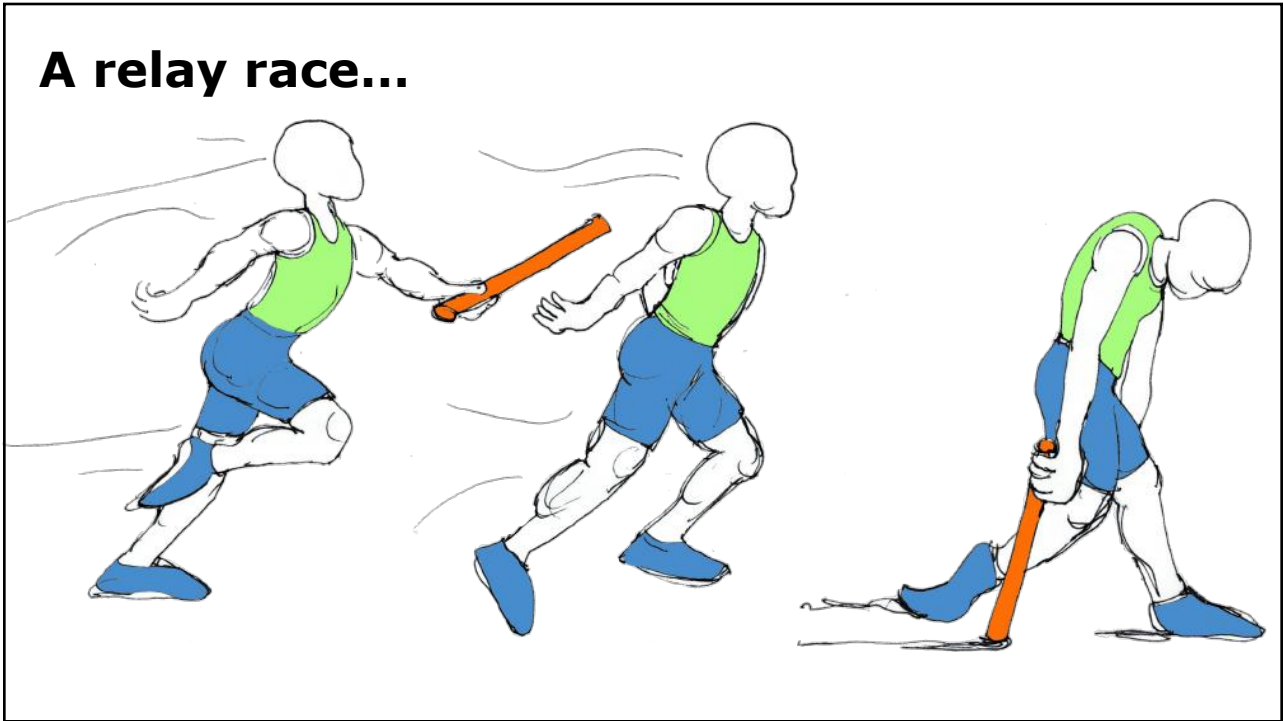
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Big Idea

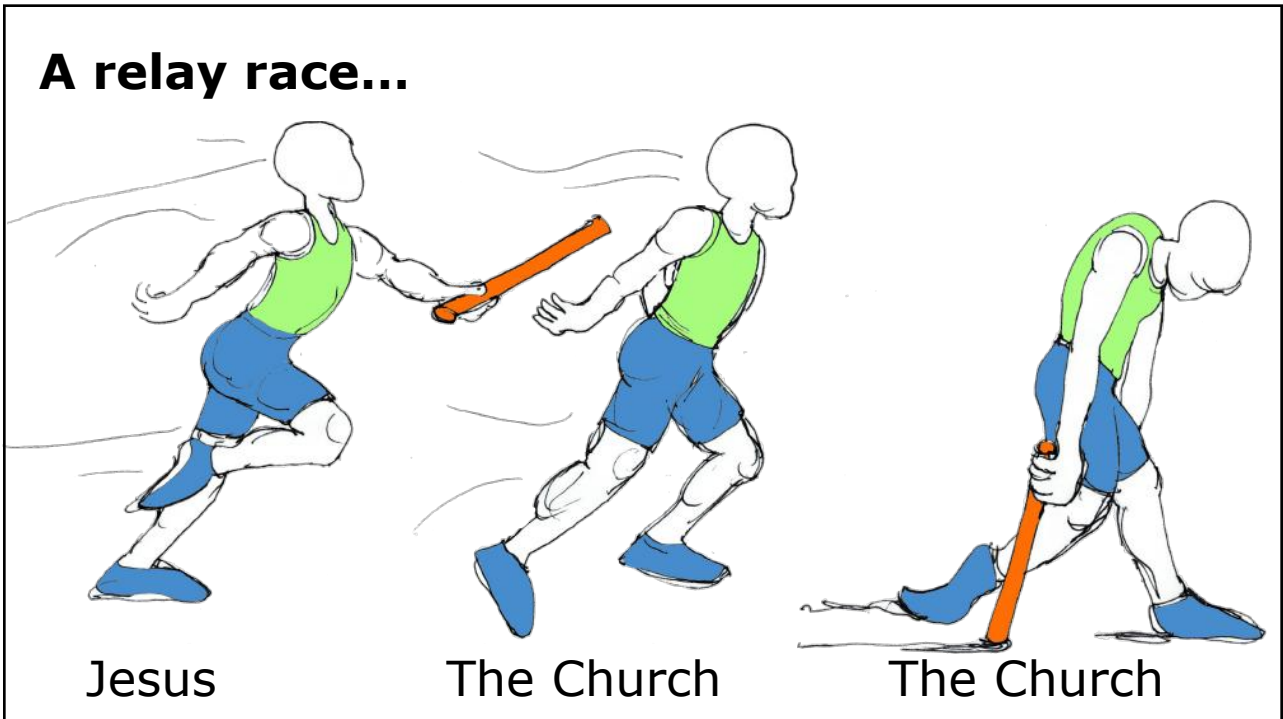
In God, we have an unending and unstoppable will and action and power to rescue and give life to all who trust in Jesus

God the Father → Will
 God the Son → Action
 God the Holy Spirit → Power & Application

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17



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**Even youths grow tired and weary, and
young men stumble and fall**

**Where does the strength come from
to stay faithful to God...**

**The will, action, and power
of God the Father, Son, and Spirit
interceding for us**



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“The Committee is meeting...”

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Romans 8:26-27

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but **the Spirit himself intercedes for us** through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because **the Spirit intercedes for God's people** in accordance with the will of God.

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Romans 8:28-30

And we know that **in all things God works** for the **good of those who love him**, who have been called according to his purpose. 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. And those he predestined, he also **called** those he called, he also **justified** those he justified, he also **glorified**

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Romans 8:31-32

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?** He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all— how will he not also, along with him, **graciously give us all things?**

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For he **bore** the sin of many,
and **made** intercession for the transgressors.

Isaiah 53:12b

Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because

he always lives to intercede for them.

Hebrews 7:25

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My poor thinking...

- Salvation is just something Jesus did
- To rescue us from the Father's will to judge
- Now it's up to us

Now I see...

- Salvation is not merely an event Jesus did but rather than a person He continues to be
- **The Godhead is united in the will, action, and power to save all who trust in Jesus**



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Salvation is...

Past: Jesus' finished work on the cross,
directed by the Father's will,
by the Spirit's power

Present: Father, Son, and Spirit working
for all who are in Christ

Future: God's completed work
in the new heaven and the new earth
fully experienced by all who trust in Jesus

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Big Idea

In God, we have an unending and unstoppable will and action and power to rescue and give life to all who trust in Jesus

God the Father → Will
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So what?

Focus our minds and hearts

- The Godhead is united in working all things together for our good and overflowing joy
 - eventually and forever
- We are never alone in our journey of faith
- “Preach to your soul”
 - Each morning
 - When trouble comes

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Arise, my soul, arise,
shake off thy guilty fears.
 The bleeding Sacrifice
 in my behalf appears.
 Before the throne my Surety stands,
 before the throne my Surety stands;
 my name is written on His hands.

John Wesley

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So what?

Focus you minds and hearts

Draw near to God

- Jesus makes us "perfect" =
 completely fit for relationship with God
- The Godhead eagerly welcomes us by the
 Father's will, Jesus' actions & the Spirit's power!
- **"Who will bring any charge against those whom
 God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who
 then is the one who condemns? No one."**

Romans 8:33-34

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So what?

Focus you minds and hearts

Draw near to God

Tell people

- This is the Good News in Jesus!
- The **complete opposite** of an angry God who is prone to judge

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Big Idea

In God, we have an unending and unstoppable will and action and power to rescue and give life to all who trust in Jesus

The Godhead is united is working all things together for the good of those who trust in Jesus

Therefore he is able **to save completely** those who come to God through him, **because he always lives to intercede for them.** *Hebrews 7:25*

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