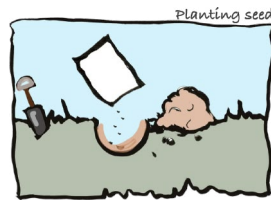


Perseverance and Godliness

2 Peter 1:1-15

From Seed to Fruit

How long does it take to go
from the first effort to the desired result?



His very great and precious promises

“Therefore, there is now **no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus**, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, **God did by sending his own Son** in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.” Romans 8:1-4

Perseverance

Remain in the right place, even when it is hard

Keep doing the right thing, even when it is hard

“Have mercy on me, LORD, for I am faint; heal me, LORD, for my bones are in agony.

My soul is in deep anguish. How long, LORD, how long?” Psalm 6:2-3

“For in this hope [resurrection of God’s honored people into His Kingdom] we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.” Romans 8:24-25

“[Love] always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” 1 Corinthians 13:7

“May the **God who gives endurance** and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 15:5-6

“As you know, we count as 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.” James 5:11

Trusting God requires perseverance

Becoming like God requires perseverance

Becoming like God includes growing in perseverance

Godliness

Our behavior is guided by God, not people

Pursuing the perfection of God

Not: being a bit better than the people around us

“the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.

This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and despise authority.” 2 Peter 2:9-10

Noah

Lot

Big Idea

Growing in God

**requires ongoing pursuit of God’s ways
even when it is a struggle**

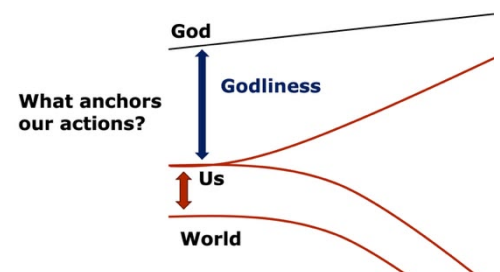
Internal: my shortcoming

External: the world’s shortcomings

“But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.” Luke 8:15

Be firmly planted in the GOSPEL

There is no condemnation IN JESUS!



Like a mentor who is fighting for us, God Almighty is working for our growth!
We make every effort because we are loved! ...without any fear of not being loved
Love deepens the desire for growth

Choose to grow in PERSEVERANCE

Continued pursuit of the good is good in itself!

And it is necessary to reach the good we seek

“But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.” Luke 8:15

First steps may be backwards!

Choose to grow in GODLINESS

“train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.” 1 Timothy 4:7b-8

Don't be satisfied with being like the good around us, or even better than it

Imitate the goodness of God Himself

Challenge

By August 15...

I want to stop...

I want to be doing...

I want to change...

I want to have done...

- Pray daily
- Scripture: memorize, meditate, ...
- Action items for this month
- Find someone to do periodic check-ins

godliness

perseverance

<https://crosswaymchurch.org/grow>

“Never be lacking in zeal, but **keep your spiritual fervor**, serving the Lord.

Be joyful in hope, **patient in affliction**, faithful in prayer.” Romans 12:11-12

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. When have you experienced the good that perseverance can bring?
2. What makes perseverance hard?
3. Where in your life is perseverance needed today? Where does perseverance come from? (see Romans 8:24-25 and 15:5-6)
4. What makes godliness valuable? What makes it hard to grow in godliness?
5. Where in your life do you need to grow in godliness? What steps will you take to pursue that growth?
6. Why is Romans 8:1-4 so important when we are making every effort to grow? What makes Romans 8:1-4 real in your own heart, rather than just an intellectual idea?

Conversation starters

What makes perseverance hard? What helps you persevere?