

INTRODUCTION

Stress, anxiety, and fatigue are in the news and on our faces. People everywhere are overwhelmed by the complexities, challenges, and demands of this life. Migrants are rushing to America, thinking that life here is breezy. In truth it can be more like a hurricane. This new series is designed to follow God’s instructions for how we can live and endure with joy, power, and purpose.

WHEN WAS THIS TRUE FOR YOU?

Our passage calls up the people who have gone before us that have endured well. Who, in your life, has been a solid example of endurance in the storms of life?

GOD’S INSTRUCTIONS

For two thousand years, “Hebrews” chapter twelve has been an anchor in the storms of life. Let’s begin by reading Hebrews 12:1-14.

What is your first impression as you read this passage?

In your own words, what is the author challenging the recipients (and us) to do? (1-3)

What is encouraging to you as you consider God’s work in your life to shape you? (5-8)

Can you think of a time in your life that was painful at the time but yielded fruit? (11)

The call to apply this challenge gets very practical in 11-14. Which of these speaks to your life? How is the inspiration of models and purpose above helpful in this endeavor?

DISCUSS TOGETHER

In order to run with endurance (perseverance), the author challenges us to “lay aside/ throw off” things that hinder and sin. What kinds of weights do you have? What kinds of sins? (1) What real application might this mean in our lives? How can we help each other in this effort?

Two sets of examples are given as witnesses and models of what God can do in our lives. How might this be inspiration to us today? What can we need to do to be inspiration and motivation to one another to run the race with endurance?

Pastor Doug shared three keys to endurance. 1. Remember, you are not alone, 2. Remember where your faith comes from – Jesus is your model. 3. Remember, God is training you for holiness and not randomly allowing pain in your life. (Cross reference branch two in our discipleship model.) Which of these is helpful to you right now in your life?

PLEASE PRAY

- Please pray for our middle and high school students and leaders
- Please pray for the kids and leaders preparing the Christmas musical
- Please pray for our Global Partners including many that live in challenging places