

PURSUING OUR CAPACITY

A hiker in a blue shirt and dark shorts stands on a rocky mountain peak, looking out over a vast, hazy valley. The scene is captured in a wide-angle shot, emphasizing the scale of the landscape. The hiker is positioned in the lower center of the frame, providing a sense of scale to the surrounding mountains and valleys. The lighting is soft, suggesting either dawn or dusk, with a hazy atmosphere that adds to the sense of endurance and vastness.

A Willingness to Endure

Q. What does it mean to endure?

- to hold out against; sustain without impairment or yielding; undergo
- to bear without resistance or with patience; tolerate
- to endure implies continuing firm or resolute through trials and difficulties

Q. Why do we need to endure?

Romans 5:3–4 (NLT)

³ We can rejoice, too, when we run into **problems and trials**, for we know that they **help us develop endurance**. ⁴ And **endurance develops strength of character**, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

Greek = *Hupomeno* = patience/endurance/perseverance

Hupo = under

Meno = to abide, to stay, (staying power)

James 1:4 (NIV)

⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:2–3 (NIV)

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

Hebrews 12:1–3 (NLT)

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. ²We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honour beside God's throne. ³Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.

We are part of something so much bigger than ourselves...

Hebrews 12:1 (NLT)

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.

Hebrews 11:13–16 (NLT)

¹³ All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth.

¹⁴ Obviously people who say such things are looking forward to a country they can call their own. ¹⁵ If they had longed for the country they came from, they could have gone back.

¹⁶ But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland.

Our race is set before us – pre-established...

Set before = *prokeimenon*

Pro = before

Keimai = to be set, to be appointed, to be established

‘God has predetermined our course, He has marked out the race from start to finish all we have to be prepared to do is to run it.’

Deuteronomy 6:25 (NIV)

²⁵ And if we are careful to obey all this commandment before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness.”

- **Command** = to direct or give an order, as a general in an army
(Western Greco/Roman thinking)

- Ancient Hebrews were concrete thinkers, each word paints a **picture of an action**

Command = *mitsvah* = precept, guideline, signpost, landmark

- **The direction taken by the nomads by following the landmarks through the desert**

How do we run with endurance?

Hebrews 12:2 (NLT)

² We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honour beside God's throne.

Luke 23:34 (KJV)

³⁴ Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.

Forgive = from the Hebrew word - *aphiēmi*

Means 'to release as in releasing a prisoner or setting someone free from an act they have committed.'

How do we prevent becoming weary and giving up?

Hebrews 12:3 (NLT)

³ Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.

Remember...

You do not risk failure until you give up!

James 1:12–13 (NLT)

¹² God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

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