

“Walking by Faith”

Book of Hebrews

I. Introduction of Hebrews – Experiencing Deserts

1. The author of Hebrews is unknown written around 70 A.D. However the book of Hebrews was written to weary Christians who were thinking about abandoning Jesus for their old life as Levitical Jews, ruled by the Law versus being ruled by Grace. They are being persecuted and many feel alone. So, they are feeling worn down. The book of Hebrews was written to remind believers whose they are and inspire *perseverance*.
2. How does Hebrews apply for us today?

“The writer of Hebrews is not preaching into a vacuum; he is addressing a real and urgent pastoral problem, one that seems astonishingly contemporary. His congregation is exhausted. They are tired – tired of serving the world, tired of worship, tired of Christian education, tired of being peculiar and whispered about in society, tired of the spiritual struggle, tired of trying to keep their prayer life going, tired even of Jesus. Their hands droop and their knees are weak, attendance is down at the church, and they are losing confidence. The threat to this congregation is not that they are charging off in the wrong direction; they do not have enough energy to charge off anywhere. The threat here is that, worn down and worn out, they will drop their end of the rope and drift away. Tired of walking the walk, many of them are considering taking a walk, leaving the community and falling away from the faith.” – Tom Long

II. Perseverance – What is this?

What is perseverance? Webster says perseverance is a *“continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition”*

Romans 5:1-5 (NIV) - *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*

Can you name through scripture a list of those people who went through some difficult time in desert places? Abraham, Moses, Children of Israel, David, Jesus.

What patterns emerge from their example? Whom did they rely on during these times?

How to persevere according to Hebrews :

Hebrews 3:1 – Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest.

- Know who you are. What does this verse say about our identity? Why does it matter?
- Know whose you are. What does this verse say about Jesus? Why does it matter?

Jesus has not abandoned His people!!

Jesus is greater than anything or anyone!!

Jesus can and will take care of you!!

Read through entire book of Hebrews for next time.

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Question: - Have there been moments where you've been in the desert. What sent you into the desert? What has helped you to persevere?

Question: What practical ways can you can “fix your thoughts on Jesus.”

Question: Why do you think God allows Christian to go through severe trials? Are you going through a trial? Do you need prayer?

Question: In times of personal crisis do you tend to lean more on God or blame God? Has suffering made you bitter or better?
