



REALITY

Persevere Well

Hebrews 12:1-11

05.23.2021

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“A spiritual discipline is something that creates space in our life. But it’s not just space for space’s sake. It’s space for Christ. It points us in Jesus’ way.”

- Henri Nouwen

Hebrews 12:1-11

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.” Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? If you are not disciplined

—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

1. The value of perseverance
2. Rejecting re-direction is rejecting maturity
3. Training happens all along the way

1. The Value of Perseverance

“When I give something I do not possess, I give you a false and dangerous gift, a gift that looks like love but is, in reality, loveless - a gift given more from my need to prove myself than from the other’s need to be cared for. That kind of giving is not only loveless but faithless, based on the arrogant and mistaken notion that God has no way of channeling love to the other except through me. Yes we are created in and for community, to be there, in love, for another. But community cuts both ways: when we reach the limits of our own capacity to love, community means trusting someone else will be available to the person in need.”

- Parker J. Palmer, *Let Your Life Speak*

2. Rejecting re-direction is rejecting maturity.
3. Training happens as you go along.

Matthew 15:18

But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them.

“There is a way of living that prepares the heart so that something of eternal significance can be planted there.”

- Ken Gire, *The Reflective Life*

Philippians 3:13-14

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

“A leader is someone with the power to project either shadow or light onto some part of the world and onto the lives of the people who dwell there. A leader shapes the ethos in which others must live, an ethos as light-filled as heaven or as shadowy as hell. A good leader is intensely aware of the interplay of inner shadow and light, lest the act of leadership do more harm than good.”

- Parker J Palmer, *Let Your Life Speak*