

Perseverance

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[0 : 00] Thank you for tuning into this message preached at Karis Church. The word of God is to be lived. May you receive direction from this message that will be a lamp to your feet.

God's been asked me to preach on perseverance. And I believe that it's definitely in line with the theme of the year, which is a year of faith.

We walk by faith and not by sight because there's no way you walk by faith and not have to persevere through some things. So I believe that God is just walking us through what faith is going to be like, how it's going to be expressed, how it's going to be lived, whether it's going to be tested or not, and how we can go through all of that.

And also this month is a month of exploit and triumph. There's no way you would experience triumph if you don't persevere. Okay, so perseverance is a necessary part.

And it's good that we are hearing this word earlier on in the year so that as we go through, when you hit May, June, July, August, September, and you feel like it's getting a bit shaky, you must remember that God expects us.

[1 : 09] If we are walking by faith and not by sight, we would have to persevere. We would have to push through. Amen. Perseverance is doing something despite its difficulty and seeing it through the end.

Achieving a certain success. So perseverance is telling us that we have to continue in spite of, continuing making the effort onto your desired end.

You continue in spite of. The Christian life is a life of perseverance. Once we get saved, as amazing salvation is, we clap for you. You do your new believers classes and all the things that comes with salvation.

Straight away, you don't get to go to heaven. You get to start. So salvation is the start of a journey, of the Christian journey. And it's not a journey that you stop. You must finish.

It's not a race you stop. You can take a break, but you must finish. Not a break from believing in Jesus Christ, but a break to just catch your breath.

[2 : 09] But still, you have to continue. You have to persevere. It's a journey you don't stop. We don't quit. We don't give up. We don't stop. We don't quit.

We don't give up. You don't say, I'm tired. I'm walking out of this. You're walking out of life. An eternal life. And so when you are called and when you are saved, as you walk forward or however you got saved, once you gave your life to Christ, it's just the beginning.

And God actually has a plan for which he called you. So you only see the end of a thing because you continue. If you don't continue, you don't get to see the end of it.

You only finish a thing because you continue. If you don't continue, you don't get to finish it. When you see a porter pick a clay, a piece of clay, and slap it on the wheel and start, the porter has an intention.

And some of us will be thinking, is it going to be a plate? Is it going to be a cup? Is it going to be a vase? What is it going to be? But the porter already knows. So as they pick the clay and put it on the wheel, they will put some water.

[3 : 17] They will turn it. Turn it. Sometimes they pick a stone and take it out. They'll feel something. And as they're feeling and moving it around, they have an intention. The porter has a plan of where they're getting to.

They may not announce it. But by the time they finish, you know exactly what their intention is. If the porter does not get to finish, we will not know. And more so, it will not be of use. And so as much as God is the author and the porter of our lives, once he lands us on that wheel, we must avail ourselves and allow him to mold us until he's finished.

Halfway is not good enough. If we stop halfway, nobody will know the beauty of your destiny. If you run away, nobody will know how much, how beautiful, how amazing the plan God had for you. Those of us who sometimes you've been in church for a while and people are around and people backslide. That's not when their lives have become the most beautiful. When people backslide, they fall into all kinds of temptations.

The story that they began, all of a sudden, is not as beautiful. And sometimes it goes worse and worse and worse. That's why they stopped. They stopped the journey and decided to step off the track.

[4 : 31] Any long-distance runner is not going to win a prize. As long as it is, they still have to finish in order to win the prize. Olympics are full of professionals, so that's not the best place to look at.

But when you look at your school, your school races, there were people who did not really prepare. But they had a lot of friends who were giving them fans.

So they thought that fans would be enough. And so they were picking them up. You know, before they came, they were feeling themselves. Yeah, yeah, yeah. They knew they are strong, you know. So it's not bad. They can make it. I've seen a few in my time in school. There's no long-distance runner who is preparing and not know that if they're going to win, they have to finish the race. James 1, verse 2. My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into diverse trials and temptation, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

[5 : 32] Verse 3. Verse 2. My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, and you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

The King James talks about, let faith produce patience. Some verses say, let faith produce perseverance. Perseverance. Your faith must produce perseverance.

Your faith, as you walk with God, it will start building perseverance. It will start building perseverance in you. Perseverance means keeping going in spite of the difficulty until you have gotten to your desired end.

So if you have faith, it will show in how you are able to keep going until we see the desired end the Lord has planned for you. Verse 12 goes on to say that, Blessed is the man who endures temptation.

For when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord promised him to those who love him. So the end result of perseverance is, blessed is the man who endures.

[6 : 48] Stay at it. Persevere. The scripture says that you are blessed and that you will receive the crown of life. In Hebrews chapter 10 verse 36, it said, We need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive that which he has promised.

You need to endure. You need to persevere. So that after you have done the will of God, you will receive the promise. And so as much as you start well, your persevering faith is important.

So a good start is good. I'm sure you've seen a few people start a race and you think they were the ones who were going to win. But halfway, sometimes not even halfway, right at the end.

You see that some people had preserving capacity. They had preserved some energy somewhere. You were convinced that this person, and sometimes they were right at the right end. The finishing line.

Sometimes they literally have to use electronic means to find out who actually won. So how you start is good. A good start is always good. Particularly if it's a quick race.

[7 : 58] A good start is very important because it gives you a head start. A good start gives you a head start. However, that is not a race. Having a good start is not winning the race.

Winning the race requires continuing to take one step again and again and again to get to the finish line. And so by God's grace, we've had, before we even entered the new year, 2025, we had faith seminar.

After faith seminar, we fasted. After fasting, we've had end of fasting service. I mean, we didn't just finish. We had end of fasting impartation service.

What is all this for? It's to make sure that you have a good start. You have a good start. And we have heard scriptures. We have heard examples. Powerful preachings that you and I couldn't even sit down.

We were on our feet. It's to help you to have a good start. But not every day in the year, you're going to have end of fast impartation service. You're going to go out there and you have to live the

life.

[9 : 07] You have to live the word. You have to hold on to the promises. You have to tarry with God. There are different things you'd have to do that would ensure that your faith is kept alive.

You are indeed walking by faith and not by sight. And that's not just on one occasion. You have to persevere in it. Even in times of difficulties, you have to persevere. In times when you are tested to give up, you have to persevere.

In times when your past is calling you, you have to persevere. In times when you feel that it's enough now, you have to persevere. Because it is only through perseverance of faith that you will obtain the promise.

And so what I've discovered is in our faith, there shouldn't be a better yesterday. There shouldn't be a better yesterday. It doesn't mean that it will look exactly the same. Yesterday will look exactly the same as today.

But indeed we have to walk with God in a way that there shouldn't be a better yesterday. God has told us that your faith is as good as what it is today.

[10 : 06] The scripture says, now, faith is. Faith is not later. Faith is now. So you could have moved mountains yesterday. But faith has to be now. If it is biblical faith.

If it is God faith. If it is faith. Then it has to be in the now. Now, so as we are sitting here, somebody's faith may be tested. Or somebody's faith is being tested as you walked into service.

Because of some news you heard. Because of an email you read. Your faith is under test. The efficacy of your faith. The strength of your faith is now.

Not tomorrow. Not yesterday. Now. So every living opportunity we have, we have to be walking by faith. In order to obtain the promise.

Romans chapter 8. Verse 28. It said, we know that God works all things together. For the good of those who love him.

[11 : 04] And are called according to his purpose. For those he for knew who he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his son. Who would be predestined he conformed to the image of his son.

So that he will be the first born amongst many brethren. Christ is our example. And those he predestined he called. And those he called he justified. Those he justified he glorified.

What am I talking, trying to make a point from this scripture is. Because it's a journey. All things work together for the good of those who love him. And are called according to his purpose. When you are called it's based on his predestination.

After you are called he will justify you. He will glorify you. So the end of our journey is glorification. It is God's desire not to bring you to a place of shame.

The Christian is not supposed to end in shame. People are not supposed to be pitying you as a Christian. You may go through trials and challenges. But you are not supposed to end in pity.

[12 : 09] The scripture says, I was young and now I'm old. Never have I seen the righteous forsaken. Nor his sick beg for bread. So your life is supposed to be secured.

Including your children's. As you serve the Lord. God is interested in not just us. But the generations that follow us. In case you feel you are under extreme pressure. God's desire and God's plan is not to bring you to shame.

Anything that looks shameful you need to fight it. Because it's not God's plan for you. Many parts of theology have taught many things. That would seem like God doesn't have a beautiful plan for any of us.

But it's a lie. Even when it looks like this is not what we planned. We can see the glory of God in it. Many of the apostles didn't die as kings.

There were people who didn't carry them on their shoulders. And bury them in golden coffins. But today we speak of them. And we talk of them as the heroes of our faith. Even though most of them died via crucifixion.

[13 : 11] And all manner of death. Jesus himself died naked on the cross. But do we see that as shame? No. Because we see God glorifying him. And so no Christian is supposed to end in shame.

It might not look like the way we think. But when we read Hebrews chapter 11. We see all manner of heroes. And the scriptures is not shy about how people end.

Some receive their young. Some were also son to a son in half. And the scripture says it is glorious. That was not shameful. Because their faith was in place. The person whose end is shameful is the

person who abandons their faith.

Who has once tasted of this heavenly gift. And walks away. That life. That end is a shameful end. Not the one who continued in faith.

And in the eyes of men. Seemingly. The ending hasn't been glorious. God is more interested in how we walk by faith. And not by sight. Than what men define as glorious.

[14:21] So anybody walking in faith. Is leading to glory. Anybody who is walking by faith. Is walking into glory. Your end will be glorious in Jesus name.

When we say the believer must persevere. We are not talking about the believer. Who does nothing. Or the believer who is perfect. We are not talking about perfection. When we talk about perseverance.

We are not talking about perfection. Because we are all striving. On to perfection. But you can persevere. In spite of your imperfections.

Why do I say that? The scripture says in. Proverbs chapter 24 verse 16. The righteous fall seven times. And he rise again. So as long as you are not certain. Where you fell.

And you can rise up and continue. You are persevering. That's what God requires of us. He requires of us. Perseverance. To keep going. So if you fall. You get up. You continue.

[15:20] So we are not talking about a perfect story. And the scripture doesn't show anybody who is perfect. Apart from Jesus. The other time I was having a discussion with my daughters. And they were saying that. But the story of David is a bit funny.

I said of course. It is funny. It is supposed to be funny. Just so that in case it happens to somebody. They can know that God is not embarrassed about this. There are so many stories.

That should not be in the Bible. Because if you look at it. God is not supposed to be interested in people like this. But the scripture is not shy.

The scripture talks about many things. Sometimes even if you make a movie out of it. Children should not be able to watch. It is in the Bible. Why is God not shy? Why did God not silent about. It wasn't silent about.

Paul's way of. Paul's life before salvation. He could have made it nice. That oh he just. You know had an encounter. And then after the encounter. He became this man.

[16:19] It would have been. Very. We would have preferred that story. Because it sounds more powerful. God used men with faults.

To tell us that it doesn't matter. Where you are. He has interest in you. It doesn't matter where you find yourself. God is interested in you. The one who is persevering.

It's not the one who never sinned. But it's the one whose sin doesn't have dominion. Over them. So it's not because you never sinned. But you never stayed in it. You did not stay in it.

Sin does not have dominion over you. That's the one who is persevering. Let's remind ourselves that. It's interesting. In Romans chapter 8. Verse 24 talks about.

The intercessory ministry of the Holy Spirit. And then when you go further down. Also verse 26. And then verse 34. Also talks about the intercessory ministry of Jesus. In one chapter.

[17:16] The Holy Spirit is interceding for us. Jesus himself is interceding for us. Why? He's covering and overseeing his interest in you.

Jesus is praying for you. The Holy Spirit is interceding for you. To ensure that you persevere. To ensure that you don't give in. You are God's treasure.

God keeps his eye on you. It will be a shame for God to put everything in. And you give up. When you're going through challenges. Think about it. You might think that your leader is not praying for you.

Your friends are not praying for you. But the Holy Spirit intercedes for you. Jesus intercedes for you. The Holy Spirit has an intercessory ministry. Ministry for the believer.

Jesus has an intercessory ministry. For the believer. Because they don't want you to give up. They don't want the enemy to have an upper hand over your life. They pray for you.

[18:13] In Romans chapter 8 verse 31 and verse 32. It said you are my true disciple. If you continue in my word. Every true disciple must continue in the word.

Must continue in faith. If you don't take anything away. At least remember. That the intercessory ministry of the Holy Spirit. And of Jesus. Is speaking for you. We are not required of perfection.

But we are being required. To persevere. Persevere. Persevere. We have many examples in scripture. When you look at Hebrews chapter 11. Many examples.

Of people in spite of their challenges. Persevere. But I'll pick Peter. I'll pick Peter. In Luke chapter 4. Is Peter's first encounter. With Jesus. When Andrew his brother.

Goes to tell him that. We found the Messiah. Andrew identified Jesus as the Messiah. Whilst Peter in Matthew 16. Declared Christ. Him as the Messiah. The Christ.

[19 : 08] Not just the Christ. Son of the living God. That is the difference. Andrew saw him as the Christ. But he didn't have the revelation. That he was a son. Of the living God. So.

Peter first met Jesus. I wonder what Jesus thought about him. When he first met him. I'm sure Jesus knew. Luke chapter 5. He calls him. To follow him. After a while. You know. Drama. Jumping out of the boat.

I'm a sinner. All manner of things. This guy. He's dramatic. He's not the only one fishing. But he has to make a scene. So anyway.

We see him many, many points. In Jesus' ministry. And after Jesus' ministry. So he gets called. He's the one who has the boldness. And the faith to step on the water.

But interestingly. He doesn't finish. Walking on water. He's the one who declares. As. Jesus as the Christ. The son of the living God. He's.

[20 : 05] He was with Jesus. On the mount of transfiguration. In Matthew chapter 17. He denied Jesus three times. But he also affirmed his love for Jesus three times. I think he cancelled it.

Isn't he? Three times. Jesus said. Do you love me? Do you love me? Do you love me? He said. Lord you know. Lord you know my heart. I'm not perfect. But you know my heart. I love you. And on the back of that.

Jesus said. Turn for my sheep. Feed my sheep. Not because of his perfection. But he continued. And then. Jesus dies. Of course. Denying him. Jesus comes back.

He's the one who said. He's going to fishing. After Jesus has come and done. He said. Died.

Resurrect. He said. I'm going to fishing. I don't know where this whole thing is going. He went back fishing. Unfortunately.

Some people followed him. It's rather unfortunate. But we thank God. But it's all showing that. The imperfection. Of a man. Christ would appoint. He preached on the day of Pentecost.

[20 : 59] He healed the lame man. Stood up to the authorities. In Acts chapter 5. We're reading it. And receiving. God's mind is preaching on it. He was the first to preach to Gentiles.

In Colenius house. He also withdrew from the Gentiles. Doesn't make sense. But he did. Because he should have remembered that encounter. Sometimes encounters are not like. It's not permanent.

Because after all that he saw. And knew the instruction. And just as he preached. The Holy Ghost fell. All that. How can you then later sit amongst Gentiles.

And pretend that these ones are unclean. Because a few brothers have come from Jerusalem. It doesn't make sense. But it's very human. In some way. Well we are all some way. Even Peter is doing better.

But how did he end? He ended faithful. He ended faithful. Peter ended faithful. He wrote the first book of Peter. Second book of Peter. As believed.

[21 : 55] He wrote Mark. Through John Mark. He remained faithful. And fulfilled a prophecy. About how he would die. Jesus spoke in John chapter 21. As to when you are young.

You go about your business. But when you are old. Someone will lead you. By your hand. And take you to a place. Where you don't desire. Jesus was prophesying. About how he was going to die. He would be led. To the cross.

It happened. He fulfilled everything. He fulfilled everything. And Jesus declared him. As his apostle. He was Jesus' foremost apostle. A man.

With all these shades. Of ups and downs. But what is to his credit. Is he persevered. He continued. He continued. Sometimes there are silence.

And sometimes you think. Oh what happened to him? How did Peter. Because he gets to a part of the New Testament. You see that. You know. Now God is using Paul more. Peter recognized it. But he didn't leave the faith.

[22 : 50] He continued. He persevered. To the end. He's found faithful. Found faithful. Why must we persevere? Perseverance is necessary. Hebrews chapter 12. Verse 1 and 2.

Therefore we also. Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses. Let us lay aside every weight and sin which easily ensnars us.

And let us run with endurance. Some versions will say with perseverance. The grace which is set before us. Looking unto Jesus the altar and the finisher of our faith.

Who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross. Despising the shame. And has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Why must we persevere?

We persevere because we pursue a purpose. We pursue a purpose. We have a race to run. We have a race to run. If you don't run your race. Your lane will be empty.

[23 : 44] My race is different from your race. Your race is different from your sister or your brother's race. On that judgment they said each one will have to stand before him and give account.

I've always put at the back of my mind that on the day when they are called. They are going to call David and our entry. They are going to call me by myself. And so I'm always very mindful. Somebody's equity is not mine.

I tell my children there is no you don't have any right to anything when it comes to God. Apart from protection and blessing. But in terms of your placement in God.

Each one must pursue their purpose. Each one must run their race. In Acts chapter 20 verse 24. But none of these things move me.

Nor do I count my life dear to myself. So that I may finish my race. With joy. And the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus Christ.

[24 : 44] To testify of the gospel of the grace of God. He said that I may finish my race. Of course he qualified it.

Some of you just want to finish. Well however you finish. You know some people. They get to the finish line. They fall down. It's like this is it. There's nothing left. There's a better way to finish. You know some people when they finish today.

Throw their hands up. And it's like I have all the energy. In the world. I've finished throwing their fist up. And some people just dive and just fall down. Some people are so tired. They start shaking. Particularly long distance races. But the key thing is. They finish their race. They finish their race. Some people call themselves Olympian. But they never had a medal. But at least they become. They can be called Olympian.

Because they have entered the Olympics. That's right. That's right. You might think it's nothing. But the world recognizes it. I'm an Olympian. And some people also classify themselves.

[25 : 39] They are finalists. So just Olympian is one level. Some people too are finalists. Some people are semi-finalists. I don't think there's a special name for those who do the initial rounds.

They are just Olympians. But a different classification. Even within the Olympics. And there's one that also won the gold. Some won the silver. And some won the bronze. But some people just lined up.

Just lined up. He's an Olympian. And for them. The key thing was. To pursue a certain purpose. I want to go to the Olympics. And some people also go and say.

I want to win. There's a purpose to be pursued. Look. I firmly believe this. God has investment in anybody and everybody he saves. As you are hearing the word of God.

As God is bringing you into revelation. Understanding of the word. God is pouring in. It's God's investment. The first investment is the fact that he died. And he intentionally saved you.

[26 : 38] Some of us. We are the only saved ones in our families. God is intentional. And the initial investment is his death. And he continues to invest the more. If you invest into something.

And you get no return. All of us will be upset. Even when the bank tells you. They're going to give you no point. No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. You still expect a slight movement.

On your balance. After maybe five months. Because the interest rate is so low. But you still. At the end of the year. What? What is it? One pound fifty. At least you got something.

Why? Because it's an investment. When you invest. You expect something. The same way. Your salvation is God's personal investment.

And then where he has pleased you. It's another level of investment. The word you are hearing. The teachings you are receiving. The encouragement you are receiving. The prayers you are receiving.

[27 : 38] It's all God's investment. God uses his pastors and his ministers and his leaders. As conduits. Only as vessels. For to pass on his investment into you.

Whatever you are doing. It's not as. It may be personal to your leader. But for God. It's very personal. Your leader will go to bed and wake up. And the first thing they think of might not be you.

It's true. Because when they wake up.

They probably are thinking. Am I awake or. Am I hearing the alarm or. What is going on. Ah, my body. I wish I would sleep some more. It's a human.

But what God calls us the apple of his eye. Is that personal. And so God is expecting. The investment he's put to you. He's expecting some interest. He's saved you. Beautify your life. You are a nice church. We pray. We fast. Everybody is nice. I mean, it's nice. But God has created all of this. As an investment in you. So that you can really be intentional about how you serve him. [28 : 37] How you work with him. And as a commission. I can never stop saying this. God has given us a lot. God has given us a lot. If you go out. And you are evangelizing. And there are some people only giving tracts and sandwiches.

I know you know what you think. However. Remember. That to him much is given. Much is required. So don't be busy laughing at those who are giving sandwiches. And saying this is not evangelism.

Maybe that's all they know. You know more. God has invested. Some knowledge in you. Some revelation and insights. Deep insights. In you. He's expecting a return. On his investment. Yeah. What we know is not supposed to make us a path up at all. It is a. It's a. A charge to keep. I have. A God to glorify. And ever. Dying soul to save.

And fit it for the sky. It's a charge. We have. So. We persevere. Because we have a purpose. To pursue. If you don't pursue your purpose. You're sinning against yourself.

[29 : 35] Ask anybody who serves in the house of God. It's personal development. Aside everything. Oh we are serving God. We are serving God. My leader said. It's personal development. There are things you could never do.

But because of church. You are doing. Even if you could do. You've been polished in church. Because of the irregularity. Of your service. So it's only improving. Even if you put it. So even if you don't serve God.

You realize that personally. Most of the time. When I tell people. Go and talk to that person. Outside. The. Church setting. In the workplace. I say. One of the things. That is not very common. Is. Somebody going to ask another person. Can you mentor me? You have flattered them. Because normally. People just go to work. And go home. Go to work. And get paid. Nobody puts honor on them like that.

If you ask somebody. Can you come and give a talk. In my. In my church. Hey. Me. I should come and give. It doesn't matter. See you. Who is asking you anyway? Go and ask them. Who is asking them that you. Like. I put so much value on you.

[30 : 28] I think there's something in you. That you can do this. And lots of people don't get an opportunity. Somebody say. Oh. I like the way you've done things. I want to hear your journey. Your. Career journey.

Oh. They will tell you. You take me to lunch. And I'll tell you my career. Oh. People have people. And lots of people don't have. Anybody putting honor on them. They just work and get paid. They work and get paid.

The small beginnings of this church. You have found wanting. But you go out. To be honest. The standard out there. It's not that. It's not a big deal. Honestly. I believe me. The standard out there. It's not a big deal. It's a.

The high. There's a high standard when it comes to the kingdom. So if you serve. Serve well. It will develop you. And if you don't. Please. Try. Apart from God's. Return on his investment. It will only help you. But if you don't pursue your purpose. You are sinning against yourself. Because what would we tell God on the judgment day? I have a new policy now. I tell myself a lot of things I see.

[31 : 21] I said this one too will rot. What we have. We'll use it to serve God. Because it will rot. Yes. It will rot. It doesn't have eternal value. It doesn't have eternal value.

There are things that we need. That God will provide. Must provide. There are things God does. Just to beautify our lives. Just to put laughter in your mouth. But don't be stuck on those ones. Because it does not have eternal value.

It will rot. It will rot. If you don't pursue your purpose. You are sinning against your church. One yourself. One against your church. Your church fellowship. Our church is nice.

Our church is this. Our church is that. Some of us are sitting in there. God has been speaking to you about things you must do. You are not doing them. You are sinning against your church. This church you say is nice. This church you say has been a blessing to you.

There are some things God is speaking to you don't do. You are sinning against the church. And if you don't pursue your purpose. You are being rebellious towards God. Yeah. John chapter 15 verse 16. It says. You did not choose me but I chose you.

[32 : 20] That you may bear fruit. That your fruit should remain. So if we didn't save ourselves. But he saved us. He saved us for a purpose. He said he saved that. I chose you and appointed you.

That you should go and bear fruit. And not just bear any fruit. That your fruit should remain. Your fruit should remain. And so this is God's desire. For choosing you and appointing you.

If you choose not to. You are being rebellious against God. Point number two. Why we must persevere. So you can't give up. Because you are pursuing a purpose. Okay. Point number two. Because a disciple must be developed.

When you go on to an apprenticeship program. Which is quite similar to discipleship. You are supposed to watch what the master is doing. And you are doing equally. Not today's you know. Sophisticated apprenticeship. But like the blacksmith apprentice.

Mechanic apprentice. Yes. That kind of. That is the original apprenticeship. You are following a carpenter. A builder. That kind of apprenticeship. Today we have very high levels of his skated ones.

[33 : 17] But the original apprentice. Who is following a carpenter. You start off. Pick me. This is a nail. Bring it. Nail. You have different measurements. This thing. You use this kind of nail.

That one. Well this is a hammer. Bring it. We'll hit the hammer this way. And then after he's hitting it. Maybe halfway. So you come and hit it. You hit it. Then you hit your hand. Oh sorry. That's it. Next time. Put your finger away.

Then you're learning. You're learning. Over time. You have become a nail hitter expert. Then you move on to something else. Then you become an expert in that. Before you become a full blown carpenter.

And an expert carpenter at it. Before you finish your apprenticeship. And so the disciple must be developed. Because if you finished nail hitting course.

As part of your apprenticeship. And you said. I finished. I'm a master nail hitter. And so I don't care how to cut the wood. How to make a chair.

[34 : 13] How to make a table. But me. Since I've learned how to hit nail. I'm going. I'm going to put my. Previously they used to do business card. I'm going to put my. I'm going to make a business card.

And go around and share. Who is going to employ you as a carpenter? Who is going to give you. Business as a carpenter? Your speciality.

Is nail hitting. So. I don't know. Who is going to bring you. Into their house. Or into their business.

To say you. Come. And come and do nail hitting for me. It's going to be a very tricky one. It's likely. You might not be employed. It's likely your apprenticeship. Will not. Gain you much. Reward. Why? Why? You did not finish your. Your apprenticeship. You did not persevere.

So your master may be funny. He likes spitting when he's working. Or. I mean. All kinds of things. His height. It's. It's. It's funny. He likes shouting. Anything. He has to talk softly.

[35 : 07] He won't. Oh. There are different reasons. Why you feel. I don't want to be around this guy. However. You know that the apprenticeship. The apprenticeship is not done. Until I finish.

All aspects of the apprenticeship. So you stay. The disciple. Must be developed. That's why we have to persevere. You can't abandon ship. You can imagine. Noah.

Jumping out of the water. Because. The thing is taking long. We are fed up with. The animals are smelling too much. I'm tired. You can imagine. The outcome of his story.

So you don't just jump ship. You don't just abandon the journey. The race God has put you on. You don't just give up. I mean this is the patterns. I'm not happy anymore. I've left. Where are you going? Where?

Just allow yourself to be developed. Let people annoy you a bit. It's okay. It's okay for people to annoy you. It's a test of you know.

[36 : 04] The scripture says. Anger lies in the bosom of fools. So if people annoy you. And you don't react. Then we see. Oh you're operating by wisdom. The word of God is true. You know.

There are many things that.

God uses to develop us. But anything that robs you in a bad way. You are fed up. You are tired. You get people. Are you upset? I mean why are you upset? Have you not upset somebody before? No. When the spiritual maturity course comes. Jump on. I know some of you can quote all the scriptures. But apply and come. What affects the development.

And we read in Hebrews chapter 12 verse 2. Is weights and sin. Weights and sin. Weights and sin. Weights will weigh you down.

They will slow you down. Weights will slow you down. Nobody is running fast. And piling up their clothes. Just to run fast. Because I'm feeling cold. So I'm going to wear. A double heavy winter jacket.

[37 : 02] No. You're not going to win that race. So if you want to go. And go fast. You can't allow weights. So again. Because it says weights. There's a difference between weights. And sin.

It says you should lay aside weights. And there are sins that easily. Beset you. Sin will trap you. Sin will trip you. Sin will trip you.

While weights will slow you down. Weights will slow you down. What are the things that you promised yourself. At the first night. You sat in the service and you said.

You stop watching some things. Particularly those of you who are into football. And politics. And soap operas. That kind of thing.

Yeah. It can be a main weight. Because you try to check one thing. Particularly if you watch YouTube. And then the next one was five minutes.

[37 : 59] And the next one was three minutes. Twenty-five seconds. And then the next one was this. And the next one was that. But that's how you realize. Sometimes you're not even sitting there. You're going to switch you off. So you're standing in front of the TV.

By the time you realize. You're still in front of the TV for twenty minutes. Your hand is like this. About to close the laptop. But as you are watching. You are moving from one shot to another. One shot to another. By the time you feel it. Shots are very dangerous. There's another one for Instagram. Oh there's more small ones. You think oh it's under one minute. And it goes. The devil is clever.

But God is wise. They have used their cleverness. Or whatever. To make sure that. They will just move. Take you over. Just a little bit over. Just a little bit over.

Just a little bit over. By the time you realize. Oh the promises you made crying. You made a covenant. The only thing that was left was blood. Pure blood. You cut covenant with God.

[38 : 57] You said God. 2025. Even you know when 2024 was getting to an end. And some things were besetting. You said it's okay. We'll get to 2025. We are starting fresh.

Yes. Oh yes. We are starting fresh. You were so convinced. So convinced. But because you haven't released yourself.

From that weight. You haven't been intentional. What the scripture says. It says you should lay it aside. You haven't been intentional. About laying it aside.

So when you see the temptation coming. You see it with a flag. On top of that ship. It's coming. It's coming. It's coming. It's coming. Lay it aside.

Lay it aside. And sin will trip you. Yeah. You'll be running. Running. Running. Then you fall. When you fall. You now have to get up. By the time you realize.

[39 : 52] Those who were with you. Are long gone. Does the Christian sin? Yes. Does it cost the Christian to sin? Yes. It's two yeses. It's two yeses. Does the Christian sin?

Yes. The fact that the Christian sin. Doesn't mean that there's no consequence for the Christian sin. The fact that you hear. That the Christian can sin. Doesn't mean that you have license to sin. Because it will cost you.

It will trip you. It has tripped many. You get up. And sometimes. Nobody knows. Only heaven knows. The impact of that sin. Because you got up. And you continue running. And it seemed. Like. Hmm. There was nothing. There was no consequence. We are continuing. But only heaven knows. How you've cut yourself short. So when you get there. You realize that. Wow. This destiny God had for me.

I had no clue. And I. I know. I know. That each one of us. When we get to heaven. We think that. It really was not worth it. Everything that was. A weight that we're battling with.

[40 : 47] And everything that easily besets us. Every sin that easily besets us. We will know that it wasn't worth it. We will know. Because when you see the glory of God. What will let me.

Walk away from this. But we have to perceive this by faith. Because we don't see it yet. We don't see it yet. So the disciple must be developed. So your development. Is important.

Why? It's even going to help you. In the pursuit. Of your purpose. So you must persevere. In your development. And not allow. Wait.

And sin. The last point is. We must persevere. Because. There is a price. To possess. There's a price. To receive. There's a price.

To possess. As I said earlier on. The end. Of our journey. Is glorious. God. Has called us. He's predestined us. He's called us.

[41 : 42] He's justified us. And he's bringing us. To glorification. And so. As a believer. You must know. That there's an end. To this journey. The journey has an end.

After we finish. Here on earth. It will be done. It will be done. There's coming a day. When your name will be called from heaven. Come home. Come home. Whatever you've done.

It's like you are sitting in an exam. You may have a lot to write. Or you may have finished. But there will come a time. Where they will say. Pens down. Each one of us. Is going to have our pens down.

Moments. Time is up. Time is up. And therefore. It's time to go home. And when it's time to go home. It will be time. To give account. And receive your reward.

1 Thessalonians chapter 2. Verse 19. Says. For what is our hope. Or joy. Or crown of rejoicing. Is it not even you. In the presence of our Lord.

[42 : 39] Jesus Christ. At his coming. For you. Are our glory. And our joy. Jesus Christ himself. Is our glory. And is our joy.

We will stand before him. The songwriter says. I can only imagine. What it would be like. When I stand before him. And so there's a prize to possess. There's a soul to be saved. There's a kingdom to be built.

And there's a. A savior to be pleased. A God to serve. A brother to help. A prayer to be prayed. A word to be shared. There is something.

That needs to be done. And that's why we must persevere. How do we persevere? By walking. By faith. And not by sight. Because the saints perseverance. Is perseverance.

Of faith. Persevere in your faith. Not giving up. Not giving in. Because. We are not of those. Who put their hands to the plow. And look back.

[43 : 34] So I really want you to be encouraged. By the word today. That. Your development. Is hinged on your perseverance. Your prize.

That you're going to possess. Is hinged on your perseverance. And your. The fulfillment. Of your purpose. Is hinged on your perseverance. In Jesus' name.

May God help us. Amen. Thank you for listening. To this message. Why not visit. Your local Carice Church. Or follow us. On all relevant. Social media platforms. Including Instagram. And LinkedIn.

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