

A Cloud of Witnesses

Stories of perseverance dominate many of the stories of the Bible from Abel (Adam and Eve's son) through the woman, Rahab, who helped the followers of Moses into the promised land and on to Jesus, his disciples and Paul.

Surrounded by such a cloud of witnesses as these, we are inspired to live a life of perseverance and to "run with patience the race that has been set before us."

This Week's Scripture

Hebrews 12:1

James 1:2-4

Ecclesiastes 9:11

I

Perseverance is sustained effort toward a specific goal. One way Christians persevere is through the fruits of the spirit described in Galatians 5:22-23: **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control.**

In what ways am I persevering at this time in my life? Which fruits of the spirit help me in my daily struggle?

We

The "great cloud of witnesses" described in Hebrews not only depicts the large number of believers but the unity they display. Christian history is filled with characters who overcame seemingly insurmountable odds through participation in a faith community. How does it help to share perseverance with others? What benefits are gained through working through life's trials with others?

They

Do you know others who are persevering now? What can you do to ease the pain of their burden? How can you show in concrete ways that perseverance is a grace given to us by God?

Prayer: Dear God, give us faith to believe and perseverance to hold on to your promise of help and support. Amen

Sermon Notes

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