

Endurance:

Cloud of Witnesses

Hebrews 10:36-39 ESV, Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV

A Call to Endurance

The Situation: Passive Dangers, Active Dangers, External Dangers

Passive dangers: weariness on the road of Christian discipleship

- Urged to not
 - drift away from (2:3)
 - neglect the message (2:3)
 - fall short (4:1)
 - lose hold (4:14)
 - lose confidence and boldness (10:19,23)
 - become dull (5:11) or sluggish (6:12)
 - grow weary or lose heart (12:3)
 - be carried away by strange teaching (13:9)

Active dangers: possible rebellion against God and his Son

- Warned against
 - having a sinful, unbelieving heart (3:12)
 - disobedience (3:7-4:11)
 - falling away (6:6)
 - re-crucifying the Son of God (6:6)
 - neglecting to meet together (10:25)
 - willful persistence in sin (10:26)
 - rejecting God (12:25)

External dangers: outward pressures

- Indications of
 - assaults and tests (2:18, 4:16)
 - suffering through persecution (10:32-34)
 - torture and imprisonment (10:33-34, 13:3)
 - abuse (13:13)

The Theme of Endurance

O'Brien: "By encouraging words, stern warnings, as well as positive and negative examples, the author hammers home repeatedly the importance of faithful endurance in order to reach the eternal rest in the heavenly city."

Hebrews 10:36-39 ESV

Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV

An Approach to Endurance

Hebrews 6:11-12 ESV

Investigate

Before we can imitate, we have to investigate.

Imitate

One way the Bible indicates we can be helped in our efforts to endure is by imitating those "who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

Examples of Endurance

Investigate and Imitate Christ

1 John 2:6 ESV, 1 Corinthians 11:1 ESV

Investigate and Imitate those who followed Christ

1 Corinthians 11:1 ESV, Philippians 3:17 ESV

Investigate and Imitate those who followed those who followed Christ

Philippians 3:17 ESV

Reading for Endurance

3 Reasons to Read Christian Biographies

1. Illumination: Christian biographies shed light on the saving work of God
2. Motivation: Christian biographies encourage us with real-life examples.
3. Emulation: Christian biographies give us concrete goals to aim for.