

Perseverance: Developing Spiritual Staying Power
Matthew 13:18-23, Psalm 73
May 14,17-18, 2014: Cam Huxford, Senior Pastor

This Is a Story about a Spiritual Growth:

- The farmer is a teacher.
- The seed is the truth about God.
- The soil is the condition of our hearts.
- The enemy is a thief.
- The circumstances impact our spiritual growth.

Perseverance Refers To Both Passive Endurance And Active Persistence.

- Passive endurance means: I have values I will not surrender!
- Active persistence means: I have made commitments that I will not abandon.

The Word “Perseverance” Comes From A Compound Greek Word...Hupo-Meno:

- Hupo means under
- Meno means to stay

Exodus 73:3

When we compare how we *feel* on the inside with what others look like on the *outside* it always leads to spiritual frustration.

When we allow worry and jealousy and envy and comparisons to grow like weeds in our heart it always leads to bitterness.

Luke 4:16

He was able to persevere because he kept a spiritual commitment to worship that reminded him of what is true and what is illusion.

Jesus embraced the discipline of gathering in community for worship every week for the same reason the 10 Commandments make the day of worship a holy thing: worship honors God and blesses us!

- **Worship Helps Us Perceive Life Clearly.**

No matter what's happening in my life, worship helps me perceive life clearly and appreciate the Jesus who will never leave or forsake me.

- **Worship Protects Me from Spiritual Entropy.**

When we resist God's word, and avoid God's presence, and let pursuing what we want become more important than honoring our master...we become "ignorant and senseless, like a brute beast before the Lord."

The firewall against spiritual entropy is consistent time spent authentically in the presence of God!

- **Worship Reminds Me Of The Constant Presence Of God.**

We can persevere because God has chosen to dwell with us, and His love for us is so fierce and so strong that whenever we turn to Him we'll find Him, and better, He'll find us.

Five for the Drive

A family conversation starter for the ride home.

1. Describe a past hardship and how you handled it?
2. How can worshiping God help you stay spiritually strong in easy or hard times?
3. What is one current situation in your life through which you need to stay strong and persevere?
4. What do you think will be the outcome of that situation if you persevere? If you don't?
5. What spiritual practices can you live out that will help you persevere?

Ministry Opportunities

For more information about these and other events, go to SavannahChristian.com/Events.

June, July or August

Do something different this summer and volunteer in Kidstreet. This short-term assignment gives you the opportunity to try something new and pour into the life of a child while our regular volunteers take a much-needed break. Serve in June, July, August or all three. Sign up at SavannahChristian.com or at the Kidstreet Welcome Desk.

Children's Ministry Re-Registration

Children's Drop Zone lobby

To move to the next age group in Kidstreet and Elevate for next school year, parents must re-register their children by Sunday, May 25. Children will move up June 4, 7 and 8.

The Edge: 6 p.m. Saturday, May 31 – 5:15 p.m. Sunday, June 1

The Fuse: 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 30 – 3 p.m. Saturday, May 31

The Link across the lake

Rising 6th and 9th graders are invited to these overnight retreats designed to guide you through the transition into Blitz and Element. You'll get to know your new leaders, have fun and share fellowship with other students. Get your ticket at SavannahChristian.com by Sunday, May 18.

2014 Year-To-Date Giving and Attendance Through April

Average Weekly Attendance: 8,738

General Giving: \$4,924,132

Faith Promise (Global Outreach): \$371,234

The ONE Campaign: \$2,174,214

Online and Connection Kiosk Giving (29% of total giving): \$2,144,595

Transfers and Baptisms: 507