

The Productive and Effective Life Part 5: Perseverance

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- **The Effective and Productive Life: 8 Biblical Steps to Reaching Your Full Potential.**
- **2 Peter 1:3-12**
- What are the promises in these verses?
 - o Does this happen automatically? Make every effort – **verse 5**
- **This Week: Perseverance**
- What is perseverance?
 - o Basically this means DON'T QUIT!!! Don't give up. Stay the course.
 - Quitting too soon is probably the most common ministry mistake I've seen.
 - o Now, "merely" persevering without adding to your faith, goodness, knowledge, and self-control doesn't get you very far.
 - **Romans 5:1-5** Don't waste the pain. You have to lean in for this progression to happen. Have faith, goodness, knowledge, etc while suffering...
- What are some examples of things we shouldn't give up doing?
 - o Prayer. **Luke 18:1** followed by parable of unjust judge.
 - Pray without ceasing: Be a person of prayer and don't stop being a person of prayer.
 - We must find a long term sustainable life rhythm. That includes Sabbath rests and holidays!
 - o Doing good. **Galatians 6:9**
 - o Meeting together. **Hebrews 10:25**
- Why would the Bible give these three examples of things we shouldn't quit doing?
 - o Have you ever done these things and felt like it just didn't matter?
 - o Sometimes we don't see the significance of things but God does! **1 Corinthians 15:58!**
- Let's look at some New Testament examples of people failing to persevere.
 - o Parable of the Sower. **Luke 8:5-8, 11-15**
 - First group quit before they started.
 - Second group quit when times got hard.
 - There will be tests, temptations, and attacks. Be ready!!
 - Third group quit in a more subtle way...
 - Don't fall for that!! Serve the Lord and Him only!!
 - The following is related to this:
 - o Itching ears. **2 Timothy 4:1-5**
 - These people quit putting up with sound doctrine.
 - They quit on seeking truth and instead affirm doctrines they prefer.
 - That "spirit" is alive today! Resist it. Don't quit on truth!
 - o Not understanding. **John 6:66**
 - This was the result of Jesus giving a very hard teaching that they people could not understand. **John 6:53-60**
 - It seems odd to me that Jesus would say this to them. What were they supposed to do?
 - They were supposed to trust God when they didn't understand! Been there?
- So, we see examples of people quitting on Jesus because: times got hard, they got distracted, they preferred myths to truth, and they didn't understand.
- Walking with God isn't always easy, but it is always worth it.
 - Learn, grow, change, adjust...but don't quit!
 - Be full of courage and strength! You are no victim!
 - **Hebrews 12:1-3**
- o Jesus did not quit. He finished his race! You can too.
- o Pray for each other before you finish up!