

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

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Perseverance

"Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's little nut that held its ground." – Anonymous

"Fall seven times, stand up eight." – Japanese Proverb

"By perseverance the snail reached the Ark." – Charles H. Spurgeon

You no doubt have heard the old adage, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

Be honest. Many of us give up too easily. We start a project and get frustrated and quit. We look for something that eludes us and say forget it. It is hard to hang in there and push on until we succeed. It seems easier to accept defeat and go on to something else.

The children of Israel were prime examples. They sent out spies into the promised land. "And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight" (Num 13:32-33).

These men who spied out the land were to be leaders of their various tribes. Men who you would expect to have more resolve and desire. But they cowered. Only Caleb and Joshua had the faith and conviction to continue on.

Our New Testament admonition comes from the book of Hebrews. "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and 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" (Heb 12:1-2).

Did you notice? The writer speaks of running with endurance! It is from a Greek word that means patience; hanging in there so that the race can be completed. Yes, it takes endurance, patience, and perseverance. The devil wants us to give up and head to the side lines. That is the easy way out.

One can love the picture of Hebrews 12:1 and thinking of the faithful from the previous chapter cheering you on to finish the race. What an encouragement that truly is.

Keep your eyes on the Master and finish what you have started!