



PETER

THE MARTYR

Daily Devotions and Small Group Discussion Questions | Week One

This Week's Memory Verse

..to keep in your pocket, memorize, and hide in your heart:

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue,
and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control,
and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness,
and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

- 2 Peter 1:5-7

Scripture Reading

2 Peter 1:9-11; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Devotional Reading

The most assured way to persevere is often simply to keep your eyes focused on the goal - sometimes figuratively, sometimes literally.

Picture a marathoner nearly out of strength, ready to collapse. Then she lifts her eyes and sees the finish line on the horizon. Suddenly a burst of energy propels her legs and with a strong kick, she crosses the finish line at her fastest speed. Our perspective - our eyes - are often the key to perseverance. Jesus even explains in his Sermon on the Mount: "The eye is the lamp of the body..." (Matthew 6:22).

2 Peter 1:9 says that a person without the Christ-like qualities we studied yesterday is "so nearsighted that he is blind." A spiritually blind person has no perspective, and without perspective, from where does perseverance come?

Paul compares the Christian life to running a race in 1 Corinthians 9. Notice that he does not say that some believers are in the race and some are not. Instead, he implies that we are all in the race, yet some of us are running "aimlessly," and some to "receive the prize." In other words, some have the proper perspective while some do not.

The ultimate outcome of our perseverance is "an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." Praise God for giving us this eternal perspective and for the perseverance provided by his Spirit!

Faith In Action

Does it feel more like you are running "aimlessly" or running "to receive the prize?" Discuss the question with a friend or mentor, and talk through what you think the differences are between the two. Decide on one or two steps you can take this week to focus your eyes on a heavenly perspective.

Today's Prayer

God, today I recognize that you are the ultimate prize. Would you renew my heart with conviction that only you are worth running towards? Thank you for your forgiveness when I run towards other things, and teach me to keep my eyes on you.