



## Faith That Perseveres

**Theme:** Trusting God and holding on to faith, even when life feels hard or the answers don't come right away.

### Focus Verse:

*"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." James 1:2–4 (NIV)*

### Other Scriptures:

- Hebrews 12:1–3
  - John 5:1–9 (The Paralytic at the Pool of Bethesda)
  - Matthew 15:21–28 (The Canaanite Woman)
  - Job 1–2; 42:10
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## Devotional Thought:

Faith isn't just about believing in God when things are easy. It's about **trusting Him when things are hard**. Perseverance means *not giving up*, even when we feel stuck, tired, or forgotten.

In the Bible, we see people who held on to their faith through tough times. The man at the Pool of Bethesda had been sick for 38 years. He waited and waited, believing that one day he could be healed. When Jesus asked if he wanted to be made well, the man replied that he had no one to help him get into the pool. It was a moment of deep disappointment, but Jesus didn't need the pool to heal him. With one command, "Get up," everything changed.

Then there was the Canaanite woman who asked Jesus to heal her daughter. At first, it seemed like Jesus ignored her, but she kept asking. She didn't give up. Her faith impressed Jesus so much that He granted her request.

And of course, Job. He lost everything he had, but still held onto his faith. In the end, God restored more than Job had before.

Each of these stories reminds us: **God sees your perseverance**. Even when you don't understand what He's doing, He's working behind the scenes. Persevering faith doesn't mean pretending everything's okay. It means choosing to trust that God still is.

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## Scripture Focus:

### Hebrews 12:1–3 (NIV)

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

### John 5:7–9 (NIV)

“‘Sir,’ the invalid replied, ‘I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.’ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.’ At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.”

### Matthew 15:27–28 (NIV)

“Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.” Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.”

### Job 42:10 (NIV)

“After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before.”

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## Talk About It (Family Discussion Questions):

1. What does it mean to *persevere* in your faith?
2. Which of the Bible stories stood out to you the most, and why?
3. Why do you think God allows us to go through hard times instead of fixing everything right away?
4. How can we help each other keep our faith strong when things feel hard?
5. Can you think of a time when you prayed for something for a long time before God answered? How did that grow your faith?

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## Weekly Challenge:

This week, **keep showing up.**

Even when it’s hard, take one small step of faith every day. Pray, worship, or read your Bible, even if it’s just for five minutes. God honors your perseverance. Bonus challenge: encourage someone else who’s struggling to keep going too.



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## **Family Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, thank You for teaching us what it means to have faith that perseveres. When life feels hard or when we're waiting on You, remind us that You are still good and still working. Help us not to give up, but to keep our eyes on Jesus, the One who never gave up on us. Strengthen our hearts, grow our faith, and help us to encourage others along the way. In Jesus' name, amen.