



Do You Want to Go Away As Well?

Text: John 6:25-27; John 6:51-54; John 6:66-67

Bible Teacher Timothy Ateek

1. When was a time that your Christian faith and life of following Christ wasn't working out the way you expected and how did you handle that? Have you ever had a moment that you walked away? Stepped off the course? Share what brought you back.
2. In John 6, why were some of these "believers" following Jesus?
 - a. What were their selfish motives?
 - b. Identify a time in your walk where your motives or reasons for following Jesus were for motives other than just Him. Share what God used to reveal that to you.
3. Read John 10:27-28, 1 John 5:11-12 and Romans 15:13. Jesus doesn't give us what we think we need. What does He give us instead? How is that better than what we need or desire in our flesh?
4. Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8 and Hebrews 12:1-2. One analogy that the Biblical writers use to describe the Christian life is as a race. What do these passages teach us about how to "run the race" (live the Christian life) and finish well?
5. Read Hebrews 10:23-25. What are some of the means that God has provided to keep us from falling away?

Challenge: As the Christian life is compared to running a race, we can imagine the images of a race where there are people cheering on the runners and some even running alongside for a few miles in an effort to ease the pain. Think about who is in your cheering section. Are there people that would go the distance and even run a few miles alongside you? Are you that person for someone?

Prayer: Lord, grant me your strength so I might endure the tests that are waiting for me. Remind me there is no mountain I cannot climb, no river that I cannot swim. I look to the hills, You give me hope. I look to the valley, You show me strength. I look to the solid wall, You show me a way

out. For every test, I see Your grace. For every challenge, I see Your mercy. For every bump in the road, I see Your salvation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior we pray. Amen.

STUDY DEEPER

Will You Be a Believer Tomorrow Morning by John Piper

Christian, how do you know you will still be a believer when you wake up in the morning? And every morning till you meet Jesus?

The biblical answer is: God will see to it.

Are you okay with that? Does this make you uneasy, admitting it depends decisively on God? I hope it is your joy and song. It really does have huge implications to believe this. Let God's word shape your mind on it.

We Must Endure

By itself "must" is not a gospel word. By itself it feels threatening and burdensome. But it is not by itself in the Bible. "We must" occurs along with "he will" and "we will." "We must" becomes "we will" because "God will."

"The one who endures to the end, will be saved" (Mark 13:13). We must endure.

If we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us. (2 Timothy 2:12)

I make known to you, brothers, the gospel . . . by which you are saved, if you hold fast the word . . . unless you believed in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:1–2)

God Will Keep You

Enduring in faith is not owing to our first profession of faith the way health is owing to a one-time vaccination. Enduring faith happens because the great physician does his sustaining work every day. We keep believing in Christ not because of antibodies left over from conversion, but because God does his life-giving, faith-preserving work every day.

He is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory. (Jude 1:24)

He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:6)

I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. (Jeremiah 32:40)

[Christ] will sustain you to the end. . . . God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with his Son. (1 Corinthians 1:8–9)

The Lord will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. (2 Timothy 4:18)
We Will Endure

Because God will see to it, we will – not just must – endure to the end. If we have been justified by faith, we will be glorified. It is as good as done.

Those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. (Romans 8:30)

Four Responses to This Security

1. Relinquish

We relinquish the burden of self-preservation. We stop thrashing and let the firefighter carry us out of the burning house. We can't make it. He can. He will. "It is not in man who walks to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23).

2. Rejoice

Does your heart not echo the joy of Charles Spurgeon when he said, "O dear friends, one's heart rejoices to think of those potent shalls and wills – those immoveable pillars which death and hell cannot shake – the shalls and wills of a God who, 'speaks and it is done'" (The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit Sermons, Vol. IX (364). "He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it" (1 Thessalonians 5:24).

3. Rest

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). The yoke is easy and the burden is light because God says: I will carry you and you will rest on me. "Even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save" (Isaiah 46:4).

4. Risk

If you know your future is secured by your omnipotent, ever-keeping God, the threats of earth and hell cannot stop you from spreading his fame. The inference Paul drew from, "Those whom he justified he also glorified," was, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31). Therefore, we will risk "tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, and sword" (Romans 8:35). Because nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ (Romans 8:39).

<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/will-you-be-a-believer-tomorrow-morning>