This Keeps You Running – Endurance Hebrews 12:1-3 3.10.2019

How to run the race of life with endurance:

#1 - Draw inspiration from those who have finished the race. (v.1a)
Hebrews 11:4, By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.
Romans 15:4, For everything that was written in former times was written for our instruction, so that through endurance and through encouragement of the scriptures we may have hope.
#2 - Lose the dead weight and take off the entangling clothes. (v.1b)
Colossians 3:8-10, But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.
#3 – Focus on the finish and the Finisher. (vv.2-3)
Hebrews 10:35–36, Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

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As Christians, we need endurance in order to run the race God sets before us. But what is the race; and more importantly, how do we build endurance? Let's discover the practical application.

Endure in Righteousness

1 Peter 4:1-6, 1 Peter 1:13-16; Leviticus 20:7-8, 2 Corinthians 5:21 Righteousness is more than an action; it is a lifestyle of obedience to the Lord. Righteous behavior flows from a mind that is firmly set on Him. What is your plan for enduring in righteousness?

Endure in Prayer

1 Peter 4:7; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, James 5:16-18, Philippians 4:6-7 Prayer is more than a conversation; it is at the heart of your relationship with God. Your spiritual growth depends on it. What will you set aside this week in order to make time to pray?

Endure in Love

1 Peter 4:8, 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, John 13:34-35,

Love is more than an emotion; it plays a vital role in God's plan. God is calling you to practically demonstrate His love. Who is He asking you to love; and how does He want you to demonstrate His love?

Endure in Service

1 Peter 4:9-11, Galatians 6:9-10, Colossians 3:23-24

God asks you to put feet to your faith as you serve Him, but it's rarely a one-time task. It's not just about starting the task; it's about finishing it well. Are you faithful to listen for His call? Are you faithful to endure in service, even when the task is long and difficult?

Endure in Trials

1 Peter 4:12-19, Romans 5:3-4, James 1:2-4, Hebrews 4:14-16 God has a plan and a purpose for the trials in your life. He is developing your character so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing. What are your trials, how will you respond to them, and how will you faithfully endure the process?