

Perspectives, Promises & Priorities

Don't Quit at Six Series
Ps Jonathan Mok

Icebreaker: Who lasts the longest

Pair up and try the following challenges.

1. Face one another. Try not to blink. The first one who blinks loses.
2. Face one another. Try not to laugh. The first one who laughs loses.

Try with other things eg. Holding breath

Hebrews 10:35-37

So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For, "In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay.

Aim of discussion:

- To embrace the virtue of perseverance which is the ability to keep going, to keep trusting even when nothing is happening yet.

Here's some good news:

- God has more for you!
- God is rarely early but He is never late!

Angela Duckworth studied at Harvard and Oxford who later went on to research - "Why do successful people succeed?"

- She and her team researched three categories to find out why people succeed - 1. Famous military academy, 2. Some challenging schools, 3. World class spelling bee champions.

- They wanted to find out of those cadets who went to the military school, which ones succeeded, and which ones dropped out first and why.
- They went to the inner city schools to find out which teachers were successful and went the distance and which one caved in and quit before the end of the semester?
- They went to look at fifth grade brilliant little kids that spell words with 32 letters and wanted to find out why they were equally talented, some would rise to the top and some way cave under the pressure?
- **And what they discovered was this, that it wasn't what they expected, it wasn't the intelligent quotient (IQ), but instead it was actually the adversity quotient (AQ).**
- Grit is passion and perseverance for long-term goals.

Let's look at the Sixth chapter or the Sixth book of the Bible (Don't Stop at Six)

READ Joshua 6:1-7

THIS IS OUR ASSIGNMENT:

1. Get God's Priority - Seek first the Kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33)

We will never be truly satisfied until we discover our God assignment through PRAYER and the PRESENCE of God. (Moses at the burning bush, Jesus in the wilderness, etc..)

Minister to the LORD first. Joshua lingered in God's presence.

A balanced life is a myth "I have no time... I've got too much to do..."

The key is to make good and healthy choices that allow you to move ahead in the direction God wants you to go.

- Don't focus on being time poor. We all have the same 24 hours in a day. FOCUS ON YOUR CHOICES.
- Know the difference between SPENDING and INVESTING time. Know which one you are doing in your relationships and business transactions.

2. Get God's Perspective - I have given you Jericho (Joshua 6:2)

God speaks in the past tense in present reality. He can tell you what is, when "what is" isn't yet.

What He says about you is different to what you are feeling now.

- God might say that you are healed, and yet you feel broken.
- God might say that you are blessed, but you feel like He has forgotten you.
- God might say that you are an overcomer, but you feel like you are overcome by your problems.

That is because our perspective is often very limited.

READ Joshua 6:7-11

If you notice, they don't know the end of the story. God told Joshua but Joshua didn't tell them. He just said, "Go march around the walls." Get up on Monday and march on Monday. Get up on Tuesday, march on Tuesday. Get up on Wednesday, march on Wednesday.

So often when we look at others, we see their success but we don't know the price they have paid and the pain they have endured.

It's perseverance. Perseverance is the price. It is the private cost. BUT IT IS AN ETERNAL INVESTMENT

- People give up because of limited perspective or the progress is not obvious.
- Do not put your hope in the outcome but put your hope in the person of Christ.
- There were no cracks in the wall up till the sixth day. Imagine if they had given up...
- God often does something **IN** you before He does something **FOR** you.

3. Persevere in God's Promises - At the proper time, you will reap the reward (Galatians 6:9)

Your perseverance leads to God's promises.

You may be one lap away from your breakthrough - Do not quit at six! You may be closer than you think.

Story of Florence Chadwick

First woman to swim the English Channel both ways. In 1952, Chadwick decided to attempt a 26-mile swim between the California Coastline and the Catalina Island. 15 hours into the swim, a very heavy fog settled in and she had lost her bearing. She couldn't see and she was confused, exhausted, and discouraged.

She wanted to get in the boat but the people said, "Keep swimming, keep swimming, keep swimming". At the end she couldn't take it anymore and it wasn't until she got into the boat and could hear everyone there, she realised that the shore was less than half a mile away.

YOU MAY BE CLOSER THAN YOU THINK.

Questions:

1. How would you prioritise the following aspects in your life? Be honest about it. Reflect on how much time you spend on them daily / weekly.

Family | Friends | Kingdom of God | Career or Studies | Entertainment

Based on Matthew 6:33, how would you rearrange your priorities?

2. Do you have prayers / prophetic words / promises that you are holding onto? Share your experiences and how you are feeling now? Share any positive experiences of breakthrough as well.
3. What do you do in seasons of discouragement? Whose voice do you listen to?

Things to try:

- Pull out your diary or calendar and put in allocated slots according to your priorities.
- If you are feeling discouraged because of the lack of progress in your life or any other factors, try speaking to friends or pastors who have faith to walk the journey with you. There is a reason why God gives His church pastors.