



SUNDAY 10TH MARCH 2024

Topic: Living Close to God through Perseverance

Psalm 129

Speaker: Ps Paul Curtis

Sermon Notes

- Perseverance is admired but rarely popular
- But life is challenging enough that giving up is always an option (v1 and v3)
- However, God is faithful and He enables us to keep going (v2b)
- In fact , God can only achieve His purposes in those that persevere (Jesus Isa 53: 5 and Paul 2 Cor 11:30-31)
- There is no blessing in giving up on God (v5-8)

Small Group Questions/Discussions

Who do you admire in life as a great example of perseverance? Why is perseverance not socially popular? Do you see think in general we give up too quickly? Why is this a problem ?

The Psalmist says life is like someone ploughing deep into his back. Share a time when you were tempted to give up? What goes through our minds, why is giving up so attractive?

The Psalmist then goes to say but God was faithful. He set him free from his oppression. Share a time when God's faithfulness enabled you to persevere. What is it about God that helps us to keep going? What doubts do you have to overcome when you are going through a significant challenge? What is it about God's character that answers these doubts?

Read Isa 53: 1-4 and you see how Jesus must have been tempted to give up. Then Read v5. What did He achieve by persevering? Read 2 Cor 11: 25-27 – what did Paul go through and what did he achieve v30-31. God rarely achieves his purposes unless people persevere. Share together what you have learnt or achieved by not giving up. Is there a situation right now that you are journeying thru that requires perseverance?

The last verses 5-8, help us to see that there is no blessing in giving up on God. How has persevering in faith drawn you closer to God? How is God calling you right now to continue to move closer to Him? Why will perseverance be important? What is it about God that will enable you to keep going? It has been said, It is always too soon to give up. Do you agree?