

Hanging on when you feel like hanging up.

Intro: Have you ever felt like giving up and just chucking it all? I'm sure most of us have at some time or another and if not, it will happen some time before we die.

It is at those times when we actually show just what sort of metal we are made of. Lets think of this idea of perseverance or, hanging rather than hanging up on, for a little bit today.

I. Definitions and relations

A. Perseverance means to patiently endure and is usually used in an active sense in the Scripture.

B. It is overcoming difficulties and facing pressures and trials that call for a steadfast commitment to doing right and maintaining a godly life

C. It is closely related to endurance. But it is not an endurance that perseveres by doing nothing but sitting still. Rather it is an endurance that keeps on keeping on when you don't feel like keeping on.

II. Various things we need to persevere in

A. Daily trials **Thought:** God sends trials not to impair us, but to improve us

B. Resisting temptation II Timothy 2: 22,23

To help us persevere or hang on in resisting in this area of temptation it might help for us to think about this observation, **Thought:** It is better to shun the bait than struggle on the hook

C. Then we need to hang on during the major set backs of life

Sometimes when we hit those setbacks we just want to get angry and give up but instead we just need to set our face, grit our teeth and go forward.

Thought: It has been said that often the thing that makes one person bitter makes another better.

May any setbacks that might come your way be the thing that makes you better and not bitter. The difference is made in whether or not we hang on when we feel like hanging up during the process

D. Victories, **Thought:** we need to persevere or hang on in avoiding the pride that can sometimes come on the heels of some special victory

Then we need to hang on in

E. Service **Thought:** This is true greatness, to continue to serve unnoticed and work unseen.

F. Living the Christian life Hang on

1. In obedience
2. In growth
3. In prayer
4. In worship
5. In love
6. In service

III. Things to remember in this hanging on process

1. Jesus is with us through it all Hebrews 13:5
2. We have the indwelling Holy Spirit to help us I Corinthians 6:19

Thought: Perseverance, or hanging on, is sometimes a real battle but listen to this, If you have the HS on the inside, you can stand any battle on the outside.

3. We have access to help through prayer Philippians 4:6

Thought: He who W A I T S on the Lord will not be crushed by the W E I G H T S of adversity. Don't forget, adversity is what often makes us want to hang up instead of hanging on.

Also while persevering we need to remember

4. We have the future hope of eternal life Titus 1:12.

Thought: The thought of glory one day soon should be enough to help us hang on

5. We have spiritual gifts to help us cope with it all in the spiritual realm.

We should also remember that

6. Perseverance is easier in a group so let's hang together if another suffers. Romans 12:9-16

7. Then remember, perseverance or hanging on takes determination **Thought:** Consider the postage stamp; its value lies in sticking to one thing till it gets there.

IV. The blessings of persevering, of hanging on through thick and thin

A. We finally finish the earthly race II Timothy 4:17,18

B. We will hear the blessed announcement Well done Matthew 25:23

C. We will finally receive the promise Hebrews 10: 35,36

In closing: when you are tempted to give up, to hang up rather than hang on, esp. in well doing for the Lord, remember perseverance isn't having the strength to go on - It is going on when you don't have the strength

Trying times are not times to quit trying so hang on my friend and keep on keeping on. Victory is within your grasp.

One final thought: If you would like to be able to hang on when you feel like hanging up on life and its problems, simply hang on a moment longer and read the next few lines. They are lines filled with the directions necessary for the most important step of the whole journey

Realize you are a sinner Rom. 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God. Rom. 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Rom. 6:23b and Jn. 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them]. Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the _____ day of _____ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: _____

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at lapeerchurch@gmail.com Subject line: (Salvation)