

(Topics and Lead-in Below)

Keep Your Eyes on the Prize

TUNE: Keep Your Eyes on the Prize (HOLD ON)
Matthew 16:24; Galatians 6:9; Philippians 3:12-14; Hebrews 12:1-3

$\text{♩} = 60$ Cm Cm Fm C[♭] Cm G7 G+ Cm

1. Keep your eyes on the prize. Know the sun will soon a - rise.
2. Are you tired of the fight? Are you wear - y do - ing right?
3. Watch Him die there in shame. We are called to do the same.

Fm⁹ Fm Fm7 C[♭]_G Fm7 Gm Cm

In the dark - ness lift your eyes. Hold on! Hold on!
Keep on walk - ing in the light. Hold on! Hold on!
Chil - dren, bold - ly bear His name. Hold on! Hold on!

Cm Cm7 B[♭] B[♭]_{sus}_C B[♭]_D Gm_{B[♭]} Cm C[♭]_{sus}_D C[♭]_{E[♭]} Cm

Hold on! Hold on! Hold on!
Hold on! Hold on! Hold on!
Hold on! Hold on! Hold on!

In the
Keep on
Chil - dren,

Cm Cm7 Cm A[♭]M7 A[♭]6 A[♭] Fm7 Gm Cm

dark - ness lift your eyes. Hold on! Hold on!
walk - ing in the light. Hold on! Hold on!
bold - ly bear His name. Hold on! Hold on!

WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible and Traditional; arr. by Ken Bible

HOLD ON
Irregular

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TOPICS: Faith; Jesus' Suffering & Death; Serving in Christ's Name; Suffering for Christ

LEAD-IN: *Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*
(Hebrews 12:1-3, NIV)

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

Patient Endurance

We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. (Romans 5:2-4, NIV)

Perseverance. The word means "remaining under," "staying behind," "sticking it out," "keeping to the course when others have given up," "not leaving your post when the pressure is on"; or perhaps best, "patient endurance."

Patient endurance has to be experienced to be understood. It's like distance runners or other endurance athletes. Their conditioning is not only physical but also mental. They must learn by experience what it's like to push themselves beyond comfortable limits. They must learn that they can take the pain, accept it, and continue to perform.

For me, that experience came when the workload on my job became crushing. I desperately needed a change. I prayed for it. I pursued all options. But no doors opened. Nothing happened. Nothing happened for eight difficult years. Finally, in the Lord's own way and time, the change came, and it was perfect.

The lesson I learned in those years is still a precious one: patient endurance.

When the pain absolutely must stop but doesn't—patient endurance:

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. (James 1:12, NIV)

When we cry to God from the bottom of our hearts in last-ditch desperation, and all we hear is silence—patient endurance.

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.
(Hebrews 10:36, NIV)

When no relief is in sight and there's nothing left to do—patient endurance.

He who stands firm to the end will be saved. (Matthew 10:22, NIV)

Patient endurance helps us grow stronger in Christ.

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (James 1:2-4, NIV)

Patient endurance is a quality of love itself. It is a necessary part of loving and serving others.

[Love] always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.
(1 Corinthians 13:7, NIV)

Patient endurance allows us to bear fruit unto God.

The seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who...by persevering produce a crop. (Luke 8:15, NIV)

The goal of our growth in Christ, the goal of His strength within us, is not the removal of all struggle and pain. The goal is our ability to hold on through them. The goal is patient endurance.

We pray...that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power...so that you may have great endurance and patience. (Colossians 1:10-11, NIV)

Patient endurance grows when we look to Jesus as our example.

Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (Hebrews 12:1-3, NIV)

Lord, You are always good, always faithful, and always love. I will trust You, and I will wait. I will rejoice in the victory that I know is coming in Your perfect way and time. Praise to You, my God and my Lord!

*Patiently endure.
Don't let anything lure you,
intimidate you, or
discourage you
from doing good.*

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