



A Worthy Inheritance: Perseverance

BY: Chris Harper, AD

I love the fashion in which the Israelites left Egypt. In chapter 14 of the book of Exodus, verse 8, scripture states, "The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly."

Notice the phrase in the last line, "marching out boldly." The Israelites left Egypt in full confidence. Fully aware of

"Faith fuels perseverance."

their rescue and proud of their history, the men and women of Israel marched out "boldly."

Often, we are closest to God at the point of rescue. Perhaps you can recall when God rescued you from darkness, from bondage, when He freed you from your sin. You marched out boldly that day, fully aware of your rescue, and thankful that your mess became His message. You marched out boldly into the world, a new creation.

Yet, the beginning of your new life in Christ is just that, it's the beginning. The Bible teaches that sanctification, or the process of being made like Christ, is not a sprint but a marathon. That though a good, rightly biblical start is crucial, it is how you finish the race that matters most. The Israelites had begun their race, "boldly."

Then, "as Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord."
- Exodus 14:10

It's amazing how the fashion of our heart changes. Those who were marching out of Egypt "boldly" now looked over their shoulders and, upon seeing their enemy approaching, grew nervous, doubtful, even terrified so

Upcoming events

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4/10 – MS Track at Crawford Co. HS, 4.30 p.m.

4/10 – MS Tennis at Scottsburg HS, 4:30 p.m.

4/10 – HS Baseball vs. Lanesville, 5 p.m.

4/11 – HS Track at Corydon for Corydon Invitational, 4:30 p.m.

4/11 – HS Baseball vs. Providence, 5 p.m.

4/12 – HS Tennis vs. New Albany, 9 a.m.

4/12 – MS Baseball vs. South Central & Seymour, 10 a.m.

4/12 – HS Baseball at North Harrison HS, 11 a.m.

that they began to curse Moses and the Lord.

Why?

Because they were not, in that moment, able to persevere. The Israelites crumbled. What enables someone to persevere? I heard a man once say that, "character is built in the midst of adversity," but I don't think that is true. On the contrary, character isn't built by adversity, but it is REVEALED by adversity. Here, the character of the Israelites showed. At the first sign of adversity in the approaching enemy, (the notion of the Red Sea has yet to be introduced, a notion that would involve great character and great faith) they crumbled.

They crumbled because they could not persevere, and they couldn't persevere because

they had little faith. Faith fuels perseverance.

As parents, we need to know that we cannot teach our children the God given ability to persevere. We can, however, help them along the way by giving our children opportunities to demonstrate perseverance (i.e. letting them fail, showing them defeat, or allowing them to get in over their heads). Ultimately, the ability to persevere is fueled by faith that comes from the Lord.

Parents, we have droves of young men and women faltering in their faith because they lack perseverance, and they lack perseverance because their faith is weak. I implore you to train your children in the faith. The faith that is built upon the inerrant word of God, God's good and

Perfect Being, man's turn from God and His goodness, God's holy wrath, and God's relentless mercy through His Son Jesus.

Teach them the "full console of God" as Paul preached, and then stand back and watch as they rely on God's word when they stand before the sea of tranquility with Satan's army gaining from behind. Know that they stand ready, persevering until that day of glory.

Be well,

C. Harper