



The bravest are surely those who have the dearest vision of what is before them, glory and danger alike, and yet notwithstanding go out to meet it.

-- Thucydides, Leadership, Vol. 15, no. 3.

Dear Friends

Perseverance is one of the hardest virtues to cultivate. It becomes even more so in an age where we want quick fixes, and worship instant success. We tend to look up to something or someone that is a “success” ignoring the story of the long road the person took to get there.

Perseverance however is essential to our personal pilgrimage with the Lord, as well as our journey together as a congregation. Without it we can get discouraged, burned out, or disillusioned.

Yet the story of the Bible is of men and women who persevered even when the odds were against them. Abraham followed through with God even though the only piece of land he got in the Promised Land was a burial plot. Gideon persevered even when his army shrunk dramatically.

Ruth stayed with Naomi even though her prospects were bleak, and Esther finally persevered and stood up for her people even though it might mean death. Mary was willing to persevere through her pregnancy, no matter what it looked like to others.

Our Lord Jesus persevered in doing his Father’s will even though it made him more unpopular, even had his closest disciples confused, and led him to the cross.

In all these cases from the Bible, in the end, wonderful things were accomplished to the glory of God.

Friends, there are times you and I start to do something, with good intent, feeling that it is rooted in God’s will and either obstacles or the real lack of results in a short period of time depresses us or tempts us to give up.

Maybe that is the time we need to remember those who are examples to us pointing the way to trust God’s good plan for us, or as Paul told the church at Philippi *“God is the one who began this good work in you, and I am certain that he won't stop before it is complete on the day that Christ Jesus returns”* (Phil 1:6 CEV).



Your brother in Christ,
John

