

## Peeling off the dead weights (Part 5)

This week we will be discussing "suicide" how to overcome and rise above this obstacle. How did I overcome this deeply rooted dark spirit. Let me tell you my story. I was bullied growing up. Other children at school was always calling me names. I became bitter and angry at self and others. At the same time from the age of 9 to 13. I was being molested by Stepfather from the age of 9 to 13. Then two additional family members also molested. My mom brought me home after birth clamp me off on my great Aunt because she didn't want me. Their was time I was walking home alone from school men would try to abduct me.

I also went through alot of ~~racism~~ racism. I've always been single out because I look different than anyone in my family. Because I took on more Cherokee Indian features than anyone in the family. I remember one day I was walking from school - Jones wheat Elementary. Two white men in a car made like the one in the sitcom Dukes Hazard. They tried to run me over and killed me because of my skin color. yelling out the car we're going to kill you today. I ran into a elderly lady. home I didn't even know but she saved me.

Everytime I look around even as adult I was suffering at the hands of someone else. Many of times I felt rejected, lonely, resentment ~~toward~~ toward self. I felt nobody loved me. I went into a deep spiral because if I wasn't born this way maybe people would love me more. I stay suicidal. had been to emergency room numerous of times for over dose. Each time by the grace of God. I survived it.

I didn't understand why God allowed me to stay alive and was constantly protecting me from harming myself. Even when I was going through my criminal case. I had deceased one day when I was out on bond. What is the purpose, everytime I look around its always something about Jennifer Johnson. I felt like I was a curse, my name is a curse and just being born was curse. I remember I had saved up every opioid pill I can. I was going to take them in go to sleep and never wake up. I felt that all people ~~was~~ problem surrounding Jennifer Johnson would be resolved. God sent a angel that morning to say no you will not succeed tonight what you had plan. I got locked up that morning. I suffer some more in my mind set for many years with depression and wanting to give up. and nightmares. One day I stayed in the shower for two hours. The officer was watching. She said everything ok. I said I was washing the nastiness off of me where people violated me. I use to cry myself to sleep all the time my bunkmate wouldn't hear me because I would have my face in my ~~pillow~~ pillow. I was young adult who was broken all the way down. I come from a singing family. Majority of my family is saved and I was raised up in church. We have family choirs and singing groups. So I seen the list up to sign up for choir audition. I put my name on that list. When I got to audition. There was a lady name ~~Greene~~ Greene (minister) ~~Greene~~. We had choir audition but we had chucked as well. from day forward - when she prayed for me - ~~that~~ everything broke off me - ~~no~~ no

more suicidal, depression, resentment towards self, self hatred, guilt and ashamed of what had happen to me and the unforgiveness I was holding on the inside. I thank God for the anointing that he places on people that can pray and something happens in the person's life. I am here to tell your life doesn't have to end tragically because you are desiring to take it. God loves you no matter what he has a plan for you. He had a plan for me to speak the gospel of Jesus Christ to people who wanted to give up just as I did. His plan has come alive in my life and others ~~as~~ as a result of my ~~testimony~~ testimony. Once I woke up realizing the significance of Jeremiah 29:11 for I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me and I will listen to you. God will never tell anyone to kill or kill themselves. For example, in James 5:6 you have condemned and murder innocent men, who were not opposing you. Innocent men were defenseless ~~and~~ person, probably poor laborers. Poor people who could not pay their debts were thrown in prison or forced to sell their possessions. At times, they were even forced to sell their family members into slavery. With no opportunity to work off their debts, poor people often died of starvation. God called this murder. Hoarding money, exploiting employees and living self-indulgently will ~~not~~ not escape God's notice. We got to stop listening to lies of Satan. Because he don't want us to succeed in life, but God do. He establish this in John 10:9. Therefore Jesus said again I tell you the truth I am the gate of

for the sheep. All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life and have it to the full. Let's talk about the life of a sheep. At night, sheep were often gathered into a sheep pen to protect them from thieves, weather or wild animals. The sheep pens were caves, sheds, or open areas surrounded by walls made of stones or branches. The shepherd often slept across the doorway of the pen to protect the sheep. Just as a shepherd cares for his sheep, Jesus, the good shepherd, cares for his flock (those who follow him). In the sheep pen, the shepherd functioned as a gate, letting the sheep in and protecting them. Jesus is the gate to God's salvation for us. He offers access to safety and security. Christ is our protector. Some people resent that Jesus is the gate, the only way of access to God. Jesus is God's son. In contrast to the thief who takes life, Jesus gives life. The life he ~~gives~~ gives right now is abundantly richer and fuller. It is eternal, yet it begins immediately. Life in Christ is lived on a higher plane because of his overflowing forgiveness, love, and guidance. Have you taken Christ's offer of life? In order to understand why we don't give up, we must discuss persistence and perseverance.

God's persistence in loving us - what does it mean that Christ is changeless ("He remains the same")? It means that Christ's character will never change. He persistently shows his love to us. He is always fair, just and merciful to us who are so undeserving.

Be thankful that Christ is changeless - he will always help you when you need it and offer forgiveness when you fall. **Building character:**

GENESIS  
32:24

Jacob continued this wrestling match all night just to be blessed. He was persistent. God encourages persistence in all areas of our lives, including the spiritual. Where in your spiritual life do you need more persistence? Strong character develops as you struggle through tough situations.

Exodus 9:1 This was the fifth time God sent Moses back to Pharaoh with the demand, "Let my people go!" By this time, Moses may have been tired and discouraged, but he continued to obey. **Is there a difficult conflict you must face again and again? Don't give up when you know what the right thing is to do. As Moses discovered, persistence is rewarded. Sometimes persistence can turn into**

**Stubbornness** Samuel 2:21-23 Abner repeatedly warned Asahel to turn back or risk losing his life, but Asahel refused to turn from his self-imposed duty. Persistence is a good trait if it is for a worthy cause. But if the goal is only personal honor or gain, persistence may be no ~~more~~ more than stubbornness. Asahel's stubbornness not only cost his life, but it also spurred an unfortunate disunity in David's army for years to come (2 Samuel 3:24, 27; 1 Kings 2:28-35). Before you decide to pursue a goal, make sure it is worthy of your devotion. In fact, pursuing God, he tells us to persist in pursuing him. People often give up after a few halfhearted efforts and conclude that God cannot be found. But knowing God takes faith, perseverance, and follow-through, and Jesus assures that we will be rewarded.

Don't give up in your efforts to seek God. Continue to ask him for more knowledge, patience, wisdom, love and understanding. He will give them to you. Standing firm to the end is not a way to be saved but the evidence that a person is really committed to Jesus. Persistence is not a means to earn salvation; it is the by-product of a truly devoted life. On the other hand, persistence or boldness in prayer overcomes our insensitivity, not God's. In practice persistence does more to change our hearts and minds than his and it helps us understand and express the intensity of our need. ~~His~~ Persistence in prayer helps us recognize God's work. **Persistence is**

**a weapon against opposition Nehemiah 4:6-9**

The work of rebuilding the wall progressed well because the people had set their hearts and minds on accomplishing the task. They did not lose faith or give up, but they persevered in the work. If God has called you to a task, determine to complete it, even if you face opposition or discouragement.

The rewards of work well done will be worth the effort. Nehemiah constantly combined prayer with ~~and~~ preparation and planning. His people trusted God and at the same time kept vigilant watch over what had been entrusted to them. Too often we pray without looking for what God wants us to do. We show God we are serious when we combine prayer with thought, preparation and effort.

**Why we don't Give up**

Perseverance, persistence the prize!! The Christian life was never promised as an easy way to live; instead, Paul constantly reminds that we must have a

purpose and a plan because times will be difficult and Satan will attack. But we never ~~fail~~ persevere without the promise of a prize - a promise God will keep.

Reference	The purpose	The Plan	The Prize
1 Corinthians 9:24-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Run to get the prize</li> <li>Run straight to the goal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discipline your body training it</li> </ul>	A crown that will last forever
Galatians 6:7-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Don't become weary in doing good</li> <li>Don't give up</li> <li>Do good to everyone</li> </ul>	Sow to please the Spirit	Reap eternal life
Ephesians 6:10-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put on the full armor of God</li> <li>Pray on all occasions</li> </ul>	Use all the pieces of God's armor to resist the enemy	Taking your stand against the devil's schemes
Philippians	Press on towards the day when you will be all God wants you to be	Forget the past; strain toward what is ahead	The heavenly prize for which God calls you heavenly reward
2 Timothy 2:1-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Entrust these great truths to people who are able to pass them on to others</li> <li>Be strong in Christ's grace, even when your faith is faltering</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Endure hardship like a soldier, and don't get involved in worldly affairs</li> <li>Follow the Lord's rules as an athlete must do in order to win</li> <li>Work hard, like a farmer who tends his crops for the harvest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>you will live with Christ; you will reign with him</li> <li>It remains faithful</li> </ul>

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