

**Study Guide**  
***Everyday Faithfulness: The Beauty of Perseverance in a Demanding World***  
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**Chapter 1 “What is Everyday Faithfulness?”**

- 1) Have you ever viewed the Christian life as a “one and done” profession? In what ways does Scripture support a lifelong profession and expression of faithfulness to Christ?
- 2) In 2 Timothy 2:18, the apostle Paul explains the apostasy of Alexander, Hymenaeus, and Philetus by saying that they had “swerved from the truth.” How do we put ourselves in danger of drifting from the faith? What does drifting look like?
- 3) The New Testament writers call us to lifelong endurance (see Matt. 24:13, 2 Tim. 2:12, James 1:12, 2 Peter 1:5-7). Since perseverance doesn’t save us, but rather reveals that we *have* been saved, explain the role of perseverance in faithfulness. Why are we commanded to persevere to the end?
- 4) How does a lifelong pursuit of godliness differ from a “works salvation” misunderstanding of the gospel? (See Philippians 2:12-13.) What are the roles of God, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus in our sanctification?

**Chapter 2 “Faithful When You’re Just Not Disciplined”**

- 1) In 2 Peter 1:1-11, Peter explains how God has equipped us for life and godliness. How is Scripture the anchor for our faithfulness and spiritual growth?
- 2) In Hebrews 10:19-25, the author explains how Jesus made it possible for us to do three things to maintain faithfulness to him. What are those three things and why do they matter? What is the danger in abandoning these things? (See Heb. 10:26-32)
- 3) Define legalism. Define laziness. We should not abandon our spiritual disciplines in fear of legalism. How do we address legalism while still pressing forward in the habits of prayer, Bible reading, and church involvement?
- 4) Read Psalm 1. Have you ever heard the expression “No root, no fruit?” How can believers root themselves in the faith and grow in fruitfulness? According to Psalm 1, what is the key to bearing fruit in every season?
- 5) Do you currently have a plan for Bible reading and prayer? If so, write them down and press on in faithfulness. If not, spend a few minutes picking a place, time, and a plan for consistent study (see pp. 44-45). Ask a friend or mentor to hold you accountable as you follow through.

**Chapter 3 “Faithful When Your Hands are Full”**

1. Describe what your busy season looks like. Are your hands full with motherhood, caregiving, school, or a demanding job? What are your challenges right now in pursuing faithfulness through Scripture, prayer, and church fellowship?

2. Discuss “survival mode.” What are the dangers of thinking you’ll come back to the means of perseverance when life isn’t so busy? How do Christians survive differently than the world?
3. Jesus knew what it was to be constantly needed, and he withdrew often to pray. Read Matthew 11:28-30. How does the rest that Jesus offers differ from physical rest? While we do need physical rest, how can we nourish our souls with the spiritual rest that Jesus talks about in our day-to-day living?
4. Based upon the way you have structured your days, do the people in your life know where your treasure is? Who in your life is watching the way you love Jesus?
5. “Your faithfulness to Christ *will* cost you something. Oh, but the benefits are eternal and beyond comparison!” What sacrifices could you make to order your days around faithfulness, even when life is at its busiest? What creative ways can you come up with to get more Scripture, prayer, and fellowship into your life?

#### **Chapter 4 “Faithful When You’re Waiting”**

1. Many of our unfulfilled desires are for good things, but we can slip into the sin of idolatry while we wait for our circumstances to change. Why is it dangerous to hold a “God *plus* what I’m waiting for” mentality? Can you think of some biblical examples of people who worshiped God *plus* something/someone else?
2. How does our culture prime us for impatience? Read Psalm 84:11, Isaiah 40:31, and Lamentations 3:25. How does Scripture encourage us to wait on the Lord? Why do you think we often view waiting as something shameful? What does Scripture teach about waiting?
3. In Genesis 16, the story of Sarah and Abraham teaches us how *not* to wait on the Lord. Describe a time in your life when you waited with hope in the Lord’s faithfulness. Describe a time when you didn’t. How can the Lord use waiting to bring about spiritual growth in your life?
4. Read James 1:2-4. In what seasons of life does He teach us to persevere? Waiting might mean living through many years with deferred hopes, and God might not answer our prayers in the way we desire. How does He develop perseverance in us when He answers our prayers differently than we hoped?
5. What are you waiting for right now? John Piper tells us to grieve our losses but then to trust God with the life He’s given us. How can you actively entrust your longings and deferred hopes to a sovereign God who loves you?

#### **Chapter 5 “Faithful When You Doubt”**

1. How can a misunderstanding of our role in salvation prompt a struggle with doubt and assurance? Read Romans 8:30. Why does Paul use the past tense to describe something that hasn’t happened yet?
2. Read Colossians 2:13-15. Why would it be unjust for God to reject Jesus’s payment for your sin if you have repented from sin and believed in Christ?
3. What is *imputation*? How does the doctrine of imputation give us confidence in our standing before God?

4. What three things did God do to give you assurance of your salvation (see pp. 85-86)? Describe how each member of the Trinity is invested in your salvation, sanctification, and future glorification.
5. How does everyday repentance help us grow in godliness?
6. Read John 15:1-11. Why is pruning evidence of God's good work in our lives?

### **Chapter 6 "Faithful When You're Suffering"**

1. Why isn't suffering antithetical to the Christian life? List some of the New Testament passages that exhort believers to expect suffering.
2. How can Christians have joy when they are suffering?
3. We live in an "already-not yet" tension between the resurrection and Jesus's return. How does the encouragement that we're "already His but not yet home" help us to persevere through the trials and tribulations of our very real hurts and sufferings?
4. Job's suffering came as a result not of his sin but of his faithfulness to God. Why is God's sovereignty over our suffering a comfort? What is God's purpose in our suffering?
5. Read 1 Peter 1:3-9. How do Christians survive suffering and loss? What are the means God has given us to persevere when life hurts?
6. How has God used suffering in your life to teach you about His faithfulness?

### **Chapter 7 "Faithful When Your Heart is Cold"**

1. If you've ever experienced a spiritual dry spell, describe what it was like. What, if any, were the contributing factors? How did you persevere through it?
2. What is the role of obedience when you're experiencing a spiritual dry spell? How do we obey God when our hearts feel cold towards him?
3. Why must we make war on spiritual dry spells? According to Ephesians 6:10-20, how has God equipped us to do battle? How do the Word, prayer, and church involvement factor into the war for our affections?
4. What happens in our hearts when we practice perseverance? What is the outcome?
5. Because growth and fruitfulness don't happen overnight, how do we stay on the path of faithfulness when we don't feel like it? What does it mean to "look at Jesus?"
6. What are some practical ways to "flood the fields" of your heart when you're experiencing spiritual apathy?

### **Chapter 8 "Faithful When You Sin"**

1. Though we are able not to sin, we will not always obey perfectly until we see Christ face-to-face. How can we be faithful while we still struggle with sin?
2. How can we deny our old selves the desires of the flesh? How does Jesus's victory at the cross encourage us to say no to temptation?
3. The biblical commands to put sin to death are wrapped in action. Read Matthew 5:21-30. How can we proactively and aggressively fight sin as Jesus commanded?
4. How was Jesus prepared to face temptation in Matthew 4? What can we learn from his responses to Satan?

5. How do we continue in faithfulness to Christ after we've sinned?
6. What safeguards do you need to place in your life to protect you from future temptation? List some practical ways you can proactively fight your sin.

### **Chapter 9 "Faithful to the End"**

1. Everyday faithfulness is a calling for every believer. What obstacles are currently preventing you from obeying God's call to perseverance? How can you combat them?
2. How does God's faithfulness encourage you in yours? What attributes or promises of God help you to persevere?
3. What is the church's role in your faithfulness? What is your role in the faithfulness of your fellow church members?
4. What does your daily, regular faithfulness to Christ say to your unbelieving friends, family members, neighbors, and co-workers? How will lifelong faithfulness aid you in sharing the gospel with others?
5. Read Philippians 3:12-16. Though the pull of the world is strong, how do we persevere in lifelong faithfulness to the end? How does the promise of eternity help us to hold fast?
6. Read James 5:7-11. How do James's examples of the farmer and the prophets help us to wait and hold fast to the gospel of Jesus?