

**SERMON SERIES:** The Best Summer Ever

**SPEAKER:** Drew Meyer

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## Sermon Title

“Perseverance”

## Introduction

This week we continued our series called Best Summer Ever. During this series, we will explore the passage of 2 Peter 1:5-8 to help us close the gap between who we are now and who Christ is calling us to be. This week’s focus is *Perseverance*. Each of us have a unique and special relationship with Jesus, but a commonality between all believers is that our walk with Jesus has struggles and challenges. But we have hope. What is necessary for us as believers –and is actually a hope for us as well– is to have perseverance through our trials in order for our faith to be strengthened.

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## Seek the Word

- As a fisherman, much of Peter’s life was spent on the water. So much so in fact, that Jesus has several major interactions with Peter in and around (and on) water. Read [Matthew 4:18-20](#) and [Matthew 14:22-32](#). Two major points in Peter’s life with Jesus. Leaving his known comfort zone behind and stepping into the life of a disciple, followed by a moment of stepping back into that world and all the doubt that it brought.
- As you read these two stories, write down some thoughts about the differences. Take note of Peter’s mindset and situation, as well as Jesus’ words and demeanor. Then answer this question: What are the comfort zones in your faith that feel safe, and what are the “winds and waves” that Jesus is calling you to step out into that you fear?

## Go Deeper

[Matthew 26:31-35](#) tells us the story of Peter fervently rejecting the idea that he would deny ever knowing Jesus. His *zeal* made him believe that he could never reject Jesus, so much so that when Jesus was getting arrested, he attempted to kill one of the servants there ([John 18:10-11](#)). But later at the trial of Jesus, Peter does in fact deny Jesus *three times* ([Matthew 26:69-75](#)) just like Jesus said he would. His zeal only got him so far, but his doubt and fear dominated his faith. What are some areas of your life where your faith is overshadowed by your doubt, even to the point of denying Jesus?

## Talk About It

- Peter's walk with Jesus had a *beginning*, a *crossroad*, *growing pains*, and *failures*. Our stories do too. But Peter's journey with Christ did not end in failure. In fact, the hope in *perseverance* is the hope of restoration. John 21 tells the story of Jesus appearing to His disciples after the resurrection. It is a story of a miraculous catch of fish. But most importantly, it is a story of the restoration of Peter past his failure and into right-standing with Jesus again.
- What are the things in your life that you feel have disqualified you from living the life of a disciple?
- What are the sins and shortcomings that you have yet to ask forgiveness for— have yet to seek restoration from?
- What areas in your life do you need God's help and strength in persevering through?
- After you answer these questions, bring them to the Lord in prayer. Ask him for forgiveness, restoration, and strength to persevere.

## Wrap Up

*Reminder:* Too often, we allow the struggles of this world to weigh us down and weaken our faith. And too often, we do not see the purpose and hope of persevering through those trials. But when we take the time to recognize the significance of our perseverance —and its impact on our faith in Christ Jesus— we can begin to see a transformation of faith occur that has a monumental impact on our lives.

*Challenge:* Drew gave us a memory device to remember truths about *perseverance*.

1. **Perseverance is a PROCESS:** Perseverance does not happen immediately, nor perfectly, right away. Like Peter, our perseverance is a lifelong process.
2. **Perseverance requires PRUNING:** We have to remove the unhealthy things in our lives that prevent us from thriving and distract us from Jesus.
3. **Perseverance must be a PRIORITY:** Our relationship with Jesus, and our journey of perseverance, has to come first in our lives. Recognizing and removing the things that we value and prioritize more is an essential part of perseverance.
4. **Perseverance is a PROMISE:** Perseverance on our own is difficult, close to impossible. Our own strength and our own will is not enough to persevere in this life. But the promise is that when we are rooted in the divine will and power of God, we WILL persevere in this world.

Perseverance is a journey, a community effort to make each other better and stronger. This week, try to identify which of these “Four P’s” you struggle with or push back against the most. Ask God to help you begin the process of working through that and taking on the call to persevere.

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.- 2 Peter 1:3-4