Perseverance

Acts 25:1-12 | Ryan Pfeiffer | November 1, 2026

INTRO. Acts 23:11 The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, "Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.

- **It's been 2 yrs since Jesus gave Paul that promise! Paul isn't any closer!**
- **He's still locked up in Caesarea… Jewish leaders still want to kill him…**

When everything seems at a standstill… What do you do?

1. **Have you been waiting for days, months, years for something?**
2. **Maybe you're wondering… has God forgotten me?**
3. **Have I done something wrong?**
4. **Is there something I'm suppose to do?**

What if its none of those things… listen to God's word…

Heb 12:1 …let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

You can't run the race God has given you w/out perseverance!

Perseverance is not what any of us pray for! I almost skipped this chapter!

Perseverance is essential to run our race in life.

Because perseverance is working something powerful in us!

FOCUS. Perseverance trains us trust God is working. To resist false accusations. To remember His promises.

TRUST GOD IS WORKING. Read Vss 1-5.

This entire chapter doesn't have even 1 mention of God working!

We know God could free Paul as he has in the past… and Peter…

On the surface Paul can't see God is working on his behalf… But Notice…

- **Jewish leaders have a secret plot to ambush Paul**
- **Yet w/out any knowledge… by Festus refuses their request…**

Why does Luke record this moment?

It shows us what theologians call God's Providence.
The idea that God is working in the hidden places of our lives to bring everything toward his glory and our good.

Rom 8:28 We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him…

He is working in the midst of our enemies… our delays… our failures… losses

- **When it looks like we are in the power of a disease… God is working.**
- **When we're 2 yrs in and see no way out… God is working.**
- **When it seems like everything is against us… God is working.**

You may feel stuck, stalled, clueless, out of control, weak… God is working…

Perseverance teaches us God is working in the hidden places of our lives.

If not hidden there would be no need for faith… let God grow your faith!

Turn to the person next to you… GOD IS WORKING!

RESIST FALSE ACCUSATIONS. Read vss 6-8.

1. **Luke is vivid… they stood around him… brought many serious charges…**
2. **Paul stands against these accusations over/ over again! 6X's!!!**

1) When the enemy accuses us it can take the form of negative thoughts…

What are the negative thoughts that surface when the race gets hard?

The enemy accuses…
- **God… where is He?! Does He really care? How could God let this happen!?**
- **Others… Nobody understands you. No one cares.**
- **Us… You're never going to change! You don't have what it takes!**

2) Don't confuse the enemy's accusations with God's invitations to grow.

God will send friends and trusted leaders to challenge us so we grow!

A Healthy challenge both affirms God's grace as well as our gap.

— Ryan it makes sense your defensive… But good leaders get curious not furious.

So what do we do with these accusations? Watch what Paul does!

REMEMBER GOD'S PROMISES. Read vss 9-12.

The turning point is vs 11… I appeal to Caesar!

It's almost as if Paul, in this moment, remembered what Jesus had said…

It's been two years since Paul heard this promise. "You must testify in Rome."

This is the moment of breakthrough! From now on he's going to Rome

The most powerful weapon we have against the enemies accusation is the word of God.

2 Cor 10:4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

When Jesus was tempted & harassed by Satan in the wilderness…

Hold up your Bibles… this is not a Hallmark Card… its a sword… a weapon.

God's word is the second most powerful thing in your life second to the Spirit!

Take hold of God's written promise until you hear God's living promise.

Funds… 50k… Ps 25:3… none who wait for you shall be put to shame…

Fighting with God's Promises:

1. **What is one negative thought… What is the accusation?**
2. **Bring it to a promise of God from the Bible.**
3. **Pray into it for a period of time.**
4. **What do you sense God saying to you.**
5. **Share it with someone.**

INVITE WORSHIP TEAM.