

grow

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

2 Peter 3:18

FOURTH LESSON

Be rugged and resilient

Hebrews 10:35-39

³⁵ So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. ³⁶ You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. ³⁷ For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay. ³⁸ But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him." ³⁹ But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

Obstacles will abound, peeps!

Obstacles divert attention away from pressing ahead in spiritual growth!

- ▶ **Daily disciplines will be disrupted**
- ▶ **Difficult demands will drain us**
- ▶ **Dysfunctional dramas will distract us**
- ▶ **Disturbing dilemmas will discourage us**
- ▶ **Deceptive desires will draw us**

John 16:33 I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

2 Timothy 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

1 Peter 5:8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith,

Offenses will arise, precious!

Offenses pollute our spirits and hinder, even subtract from, spiritual growth!

- ▶ **People will insult and ignore us**
- ▶ **People will inflict injury on us**
- ▶ **People will implicate and incriminate us**

Hebrews 12:15 See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Colossians 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Matthew 6:15 But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

1 Thessalonians 5:15 Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.

Objections will accumulate, partners!

Objections are part of being opinionated people living in an imperfect world!

- ▶ **Personalities will perturb us**
- ▶ **Agendas will aggravate us**
- ▶ **Inequities will infuriate us**
- ▶ **Foolishness will frustrate us**
- ▶ **Environments will exasperate us**

James 1:19 My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

Romans 12:18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Romans 14:4 Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

Romans 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

Overcomers will advance anyway, people!

Spiritual growth requires a determination to press through the junk of this world into the Lord's victory!

- ▶ **Be ready to rumble**
- ▶ **Be rugged and resilient**
- ▶ **Be resolved to run the race rigorously**

Philippians 3:16 Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you.

Hebrews 10:39 But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

Philippians 3:13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Higher Ground

JOHNSON OATMAN, JR • 1898

I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining every day;
Still praying as I onward bound,
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

Lord, lift me up, and let me stand
By faith on Heaven's tableland;
A higher plane than I have found,
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

My heart has no desire to stay
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;
Though some may dwell where these abound,
My prayer, my aim, is higher ground.

I want to live above the world,
Though Satan's darts at me are hurled;
For faith has caught the joyful sound,
The song of saints on higher ground.

I want to scale the utmost height
And catch a gleam of glory bright;
But still I'll pray till Heav'n I've found,
"Lord, lead me on to higher ground."