Introduction: Do you ever get tired spiritually?

How can you keep the revival work growing in your heart and life, over months and years?

[1] And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, [2] fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
[3] Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Hebrews 12:1b-3

Question:

How can you keep going when you're fatigued or discouraged?

Answer:

Lasting revival requires daily perseverance.

How do you ensure that you don't live distracted and how do you keep your focus on God?

- Let us draw near to God… Hebrews 10:22
- Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess… Hebrews 10:23
- Let us consider how to spur one another on… Hebrews 10:24
- Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us… Hebrews 12:1

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4 ways to persevere for revival over decades:

1. **Draw near to God _____**

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 10:22-23

2. **Get yourself to _____ and into _____ friendships**

24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25

3. **Run the race with _____**

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us Hebrews 12:1b

36 Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— 38 the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

Hebrews 11:36-38

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

Hebrews 12:1

4. **Fix your eyes on _____, not _____**

Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2

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Discussion Questions:

1. Satan doesn't need to use the power of hell to stop modern believers; he simply uses distraction. What is one specific good thing in your life that routinely threatens to distract you from the ultimate goal of living for God's kingdom?

2. Since we never plant and harvest in the same season, it is easy to become deeply discouraged when we don't see immediate changes in our families, workplaces, or personal habits. What is one "kingdom seed" you have been planting recently where you need to stop focusing on immediate results and trust God for a future harvest?

3. Hebrews 10:22 encourages us to draw near to God with an authentic, sincere heart. When you spend time in prayer, do you find yourself trying to present a "good" version of yourself to God, or are you entirely open about your current anxieties, messes, and shortcomings? How does knowing your salvation is secure allow you to drop the front?

4. Unconfessed or habitual sin is described as carrying heavy bricks in a backpack while trying to run a marathon. What is a heavy brick or ongoing entanglement you need to confess and drop this week so that you can run your spiritual race with more freedom?

5. Revival work is slow, tedious work. Who is someone in your life that you have been praying for or serving for a long time with very little visible progress? How does the promise in Hebrews 10:35 challenge you to keep your confidence?

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