

Every breakthrough requires perseverance.

*“By perseverance the snail reached the ark.”* — Charles Spurgeon

What is perseverance?

Steady persistence in a course of action, especially in spite of difficulties, obstacles, and discouragement.

*“I don’t think that there is any other quality so essential to success of any kind as the quality of perseverance.”* — John D. Rockefeller

What was Nehemiah’s secret?

“I am doing a **great work** and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?”  
*Nehemiah 6:3*

“Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in **disgrace.**” *Nehemiah 2:17*

The secret to perseverance is your why.

*“Life’s greatest rewards are reserved for those who demonstrate a never-ending commitment to act until they achieve.”*  
— Tony Robbins

I have been constantly on the move. I have been in **danger** from rivers, in **danger** from bandits, in **danger** from my fellow Jews, in **danger** from Gentiles; in **danger** in the city, in **danger** in the country, in **danger** at sea; and in **danger** from false believers.  
*2 Corinthians 11:26*

For to me, to live is **Christ** and to die is gain. *Philippians 1:21*

“...I consider my life worth nothing to me; my **only aim** is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of **testifying** to the good news of God’s grace.” *Acts 20:24*

What is your **why**?

*“Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan ‘Press On’ has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race.”*  
— Calvin Coolidge

## Group Prep

In preparation for your small group meeting, please read Nehemiah 4 and 5, then answer the following discussion questions prior to attending.

## Introduction

Only 10-12% of people succeed at their resolutions. Quitting is so prevalent that a day has been instituted to mark the occasion every January 12: Quitter’s Day. Why is quitting so easy? Although there are many reasons, there is one attribute we must develop to overcome the odds. If we are going to experience a breakthrough, we must develop perseverance.

## Discussion Questions

1. Define perseverance. Share a time when perseverance helped you accomplish something. Now, share something you’ve quit. Why was it so easy to quit?

2. When we try to achieve something great, we find opposition. After reading Nehemiah 4 and 5, what were the difficulties Nehemiah and the Israelites faced while building the wall? In what ways did Nehemiah counter the opposition? Read Nehemiah 6:3. What drove Nehemiah’s perseverance?

Read 2 Corinthians 11:23-29. What difficulties did Paul encounter? What helped Paul persevere?

What oppositions to your breakthrough are you facing? How do you generally respond? How can we develop persistence? Finish the sentence, “I will not stop until...”

3. What “why” do you need to develop to fully commit to your breakthrough? Is your current “why” strong enough to help you overcome opposition by persevering or do you need to revise it? Similar to Nehemiah and Paul, how will your breakthrough help you accomplish God’s mission?

4. Read Philippians 3:12-14. What is the “why” behind Paul’s ministry? What “why” do you need to develop in order to persevere? How are you going to keep your “why” in front of you, regularly?

## Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are \_\_\_\_\_

I’m accountable for \_\_\_\_\_, and their action steps are \_\_\_\_\_

My memory verse is \_\_\_\_\_

This coming week, I’m praying for: \_\_\_\_\_

## Outreach: Groups in Action

Sign up to help restock connection cards in the Greenwood Campus auditorium on Wednesday nights. This will be a huge blessing to Emmanuel! Email Kerry at [kcarmichael@eclife.org](mailto:kcarmichael@eclife.org).

Save the date for March 18 for Pack Away Hunger. We’ll need lots of hands to help pack 100,000 meals. More details coming soon!