

How can I keep going as a Christian?

Discuss while waiting to begin:

1. What makes us ask questions about keeping going as a Christian? Or worry about falling away?
2. Read Hebrews 3:12-14 and ask: (a) What's the danger? (b) What's the antidote? (c) What's the goal?

1. Warning! Not everyone who says they believe will persevere

e.g. Hebrews 3:12

Matthew 13:20-21, "The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away."

Matthew 24:10-12, "At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, ¹¹ and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹² Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,"

"The perseverance of the saints ... does not mean that everyone who professes faith in Christ and who is accepted as a believer in the fellowship of the saints is secure for eternity and may entertain the assurance of eternal salvation... It is possible to give all the outward signs of faith in Christ and obedience to him, to witness for a time a good confession and show great zeal for Christ and his kingdom and then lose all interest and become indifferent, if not hostile, to the claims of Christ and of his kingdom" (John Murray, *Redemption accomplished and applied*, p151-152)

See also John 15:1-2,6, 1 Timothy 1:19, 4:1, 2 Timothy 4:10, Hebrews 6:4-6, 10:29, 2 Peter 2:20-22, 1 John 2:19

2. Exhortation! Keep on going with Jesus!

Hebrews 2:1, 2:3, 3:12-14, 10:25

Matthew 24:13, "but he who stands firm to the end will be saved." (Also Matt 10:22)

John 8:31, "To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples."

See also John 15:6, 1 Cor. 9:27, 15:1-2, Col. 1:22-23, Heb 10:36-39, 2 Peter 1:10-11, 1 John 2:19

3. Assurance: the Lord keeps hold of his people

E.g. Romans 8:28-30 – an unbreakable chain of salvation

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Psalms 37:23-24, "If the LORD delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm; ²⁴ though he stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand."

Hebrews 7:25

John 6:37-40

See also Ps 73:1-2,23, Romans 5:8-10, 1 Cor. 3:15, 1 Peter 1:5, John 10:28-29, Romans 8:31-39, Ephesians 1:13-14

Think...

1. What are some symptoms of "drifting"? What would you do if you spotted some of these symptoms – (a) in your own life? in a friend?
2. How would you help a friend who feels burdened by the "warning" passages of scripture?
3. How will you keep going as a Christian?