

NOTES

Introduction

1. The Golden Triangle refers to the border regions between Thailand, Burma, and Laos during a time when gold was used by Chinese traders to pay for the opium grown there. In Southeast Asia, the term is synonymous with the opium and heroin trade. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Triangle_\(Southeast_Asia\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Triangle_(Southeast_Asia)).
2. The full quote, attributed to William Carey, is, “If he give me credit for being a plodder he will describe me justly. Anything beyond that will be too much. I can plod. I can persevere in any definite pursuit. To this I owe everything.”
3. Angela Duckworth, *Grit: The Power and Passion of Perseverance* (Scribner: New York, 2016).

Chapter One: The Battle for Perseverance

1. H. B. Irving, *A Book of Remarkable Criminals* (New York: George H. Doran Company, 1918), 36–98.
2. Leonard Ravenhill, *Why Revival Tarries* (Bloomington, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 1987), 33–34.
3. Timothy Keller, *Walking with God through Pain and Suffering* (New York: Penguin Books, 2013), 14.
4. Stephen Ambrose, *Nothing Like It in the World: The Men Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad 1863–1869* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2001), 117, is quoted in Gordon MacDonald, *A Resilient Life* (Nashville: Nelson Books, 2004), 43.
5. Matthew 16:24; John 16:33; 2 Corinthians 6:3–5; James 1:2–3.

Chapter Two: Difficulty Involves Loss

1. Eugene H. Peterson, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000), 16.
2. National Vital Statistics Reports, US Department of Health and Human Services, V66-N6, 11-2017.
3. Lewis Mumford, *Technics and Civilization* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1934), 12.
4. *Ibid.*, 14.
5. *Ibid.*, 15.

6. Neil Postman, *Amusing Ourselves to Death* (New York: Penguin Books, 1985), 11 (emphasis added).
7. Carl Sagan, introduction to *A Brief History of Time*, 1st ed., by Stephen Hawking (New York: Bantam Dell, 1988), x.
8. Lysa Terkeurst, *It's Not Supposed to Be This Way* (Nashville: Nelson Books, 2018), xii.
9. *Ibid.*, 45.
10. *Drift*, directed by Baltasar Kormakur, produced by Huayi Brothers, Lakeshore Entertainment, RVK Studios, STX Entertainment, 2018.
11. Chris Hedges, *What Every Person Should Know about War* (New York: Free Press, 2005), 1.
12. The story of the Cuban Missile Crisis is documented in Michael Dobbs, *One Minute to Midnight: Kennedy, Khrushchev, and Castro on the Brink of Nuclear War* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2008).
13. "Vietnam War U.S. Military Fatal Casualty Statistics," National Archives, last reviewed on April 30, 2019, <https://www.archives.gov/research/military/vietnam-war/casualty-statistics>.
14. Neil Postman, *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business* (New York: Penguin Books, 1986).
15. *Ibid.*, 87 (emphasis added).
16. David Platt, *Follow Me: A Call to Die, A Call to Live* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 2013), 109.
17. C. S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory: And Other Addresses* (New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2001), 26.
18. The story about an encounter with Jesus by a rich, young ruler is found in the gospels of Matthew (19:16–22), Mark (10:17–22), and Luke (18:18–23). Matthew and Mark say he had "great possessions." Luke says he was "extremely rich." Matthew says he was a "young man." Luke calls him a "ruler." The fact that three gospel writers include the encounter and Jesus' response in their narratives indicates something about the importance of this encounter.
19. Andrew Delbanco, *The Real American Dream: A Meditation of Hope* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999), 2–3. Delbanco quotes Alexis de Tocqueville in his book *Democracy in America*, trans. Phillips Bradley (New York: Vintage, 1990), 107.
20. Don E. Eberly, *The Rise of Global Civil Society: Building Communities and Nations from the Bottom Up* (New York: Encounter Books, 2008), 18–19.
21. *Ibid.*, 43. Survey source: Claire Hughes, "Survey Gives Faith-Based Groups High Marks in Hurricane Aid," The Roundtable on Religion and Social Welfare Policy, December 2005.
22. Timothy Keller, "Praying Our Tears" (sermon, Redeemer Presbyterian Church, NY, February 27, 2000), *Gospel in Life* podcast, <https://gospelinlife.com/downloads/praying-our-tears/> (emphasis added).

Chapter Three: Everyday Endurance

1. Gordon MacDonald, *A Resilient Life: You Can Move Ahead No Matter What* (Nashville: Nelson Books, 2004), 66.
2. Romans 3:13–18. I suggest the reader studies this text in several translations to get the full impact of Paul’s and the Jewish (by his reference of Psalm 14) view on the sinfulness of man.
3. C. S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain* (1940; repr., New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1996), 40. In the quote, Lewis references Revelation 4:11 KJV.
4. Mark 7:21–23; Luke 12:15; Rom. 1:29; 7:7–8; 1 Cor. 5:11; 6:10; 2 Cor. 9:5; Eph. 5:5; James 4:1–2.
5. Patrick Spenner and Karen Freeman, “To Keep Your Customers, Keep It Simple,” *Harvard Business Review*, May 2012.
6. Sheena S. Iyengar and Mark R. Lepper, “When Choice is Demotivating: Can One Desire Too Much of a Good Thing?,” *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 79, no. 6 (2000): 1003.
7. Barry Schwartz, “The Tyranny of Choice,” *Scientific American* 290, no. 4 (2004): 70–75.
8. Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, *Creativity: Flow and the Psychology of Discovery and Invention* (New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1996), 110.
9. John Ortberg, *Soul Keeping: Caring for the Most Important Part of You* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014), 20.

Chapter Four: Aspirations for Greatness

1. See <http://www.ironman.com>; Will Gray, “Be an IRONMAN Expert with These Stats on This Month’s World Championships,” Red Bull, October 1, 2019, <https://www.redbull.com/us-en/kona-ironman-stats>.
2. Angela Duckworth, *Grit: The Power and Passion of Perseverance* (New York: Scribner, 2016), 39.
3. Malcolm Gladwell, *Outliers: The Story of Success* (Columbus, GA: Little, Brown and Company, 2011), 41.
4. *Ibid.*, 37.
5. *Ibid.*, 39 (emphasis added). The word “much” in bold was italicized by Gladwell in the original text.
6. Duckworth, *Grit*, 54–58.
7. *Ibid.*, 143.
8. *Ibid.*, 147–48.
9. *Ibid.*, 83.
10. Henry Cloud, *The Power of the Other* (New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2016), 9.
11. *Ibid.*, 2.

Chapter Five: Greatness from God's Perspective

1. A. W. Tozer, *I Talk Back to the Devil: The Fighting Fervor of the Victorious Christian* (1972; repr., Chicago: Moody, 2018), 26.
2. Joey Buran, *Beyond the Dream* movie, produced by AquaFluence and Tight Productions, 2009.
3. Pastor Mike Doyle, www.movementnyc.org.
4. Count Zinzendorf, quoted in Janet and Geoff Benge, *Count Zinzendorf: Firstfruit*, Christian Heroes: Then & Now (Seattle: YWAM Publishing, 2005), 102.
5. Tozer, *I Talk Back to the Devil*, 26 (emphasis added).
6. Angela Duckworth, *Grit: The Power and Passion of Perseverance* (New York: Scribner, 2016), 79.

Chapter Six: Moral Courage

1. John D. Morris, "The Survival of Noah's Ark," Institute for Creation Research, December 28, 2012, <https://www.icr.org/article/survival-noahs-ark>.
2. John Woodmorappe, *Noah's Ark: A Feasibility Study* (El Cajon, CA: Institute for Creation Research, 1996).
3. Genesis 37–48 recounts the incredible story of Joseph's life from son, to slave, to ruler.
4. Mary Fairchild, "Heroes of Faith in the Book of Hebrews," Learn Religions, updated June 25, 2019, <https://www.learnreligions.com/hebrews-chapter-11-heroes-of-faith-700176>.
5. Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche, quoted by Harold S. Kushner, foreword to Viktor Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning* (New York: Simon & Schuster, New York, 1984), ix. Quote originally appeared in Nietzsche's *Twilight of the Idols*.
6. John Piper, *Let the Nations Be Glad: The Supremacy of God in Missions*, 3rd ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010), 50.
7. Steve Hawthorne, *Perspectives Reader*, 4th ed. (Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2009), 49.
8. The term *sovereignty* encompasses God's omnipotence (all power), omniscience (all knowledge), omnipresence (all presence), His eternal nature, etc.
9. Hawthorne, *Perspectives Reader*, 49.
10. www.perspectives.org. The "Perspectives on the World Christian Movement" course is a fifteen-week course conceived and formed by Dr. Ralph Winter in 1973. Since then, "Perspectives" has been studied by hundreds of thousands of people all over the United States and the world. It is offered at certificate, undergraduate, and graduate levels.
11. This brief summary of Adoniram Judson's life story is taken from

Janet and Geoff Bengé, *Adoniram Judson: Bound for Burma* (Seattle: YWAM Publishing, 2000).

12. Piper, *Let the Nations Be Glad*, 60–61.

Chapter Seven: Perseverance and God’s Consummate Purposes

1. A. W. Tozer, *Jesus Is Victor: A Fresh Perspective on the Book of Revelation* (Camp Hill, PA: WingSpread Publishers, 2010), 10–11.
2. Acts 2:14–17; 1 Peter 4:7; Rev. 1:1–3 are a few references to New Testament writers who believed the end of the age was near. They were not wrong on this point. Since the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, we are living in the final age, the last days. We do not know the day nor the hour, but as people of the new covenant, we live with the joyful anticipation of the glorious return of Jesus.
3. Eugene H. Peterson, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000), 76.
4. Eric Metaxas, *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2010), 381 (emphasis added).
5. *Ibid.*, 383.
6. *Ibid.*, 528.
7. For a longer treatment of Jesus’ “endure to the end” teaching, refer to Matthew 10:16–22, where Jesus first commissions His apostles.
8. David Platt, *Follow Me: A Call to Die, A Call to Live* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 2013), 87.
9. C. S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain* (New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1996), 124–25. C. S. Lewis quotes Von Hugel in his *Essays and Addresses*, 1st series, “What Do We Mean by Heaven and Hell?”

Chapter Eight: Self-Care: Thriving in Difficulty

1. Marvin Olasky, “Facing Waves,” *WORLD*, August 16, 2018, https://world.wng.org/2018/08/facing_waves.
2. William Evans, *The Great Doctrines of the Bible* (Chicago: Moody, 1974), 5.
3. Gordon MacDonald, *A Resilient Life: You Can Move Ahead No Matter What* (Nashville: Nelson Books, 2004), 170.
4. Robert H. Shmerling, “Right Brain/Left Brain, Right?,” Harvard Health Publishing, posted August 25, 2017, updated November 8, 2019, <https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/right-brainleft-brain-right-2017082512222>. Schmerling references a peer-reviewed research article entitled “An Evaluation of the Left-Brain vs. Right-Brain Hypothesis with Resting State Functional Connectivity Magnetic Resonance Imaging,” published on August 14, 2013, by Jared A. Nielson,

- Brandon A. Zielinski, Michael A. Ferguson, Janet E. Lainhart, and Jeffrey S. Anderson. The article is available at <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0071275>.
5. Eugene H. Peterson, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000), 54.
 6. Paul Carter, “Dashing the Little Ones Against the Rock—Does This Verse Really Belong in Scripture?,” *The Gospel Coalition*, July 5, 2017, <https://ca.thegospelcoalition.org/columns/ad-fontes/dashing-little-ones-rock-verse-really-belong-scripture/>.
 7. *Ibid.*
 8. *Ibid.*
 9. Andrea Palpant Dille, *Faith and Flat Tires*, quoted in Timothy Keller, *Walking with God through Pain and Suffering*, 106.
 10. *Ibid.*, 106.
 11. Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, *Creativity: Flow and the Psychology of Discovery and Invention* (New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1996), 8. Csikszentmihalyi distinguishes between “Creativity” as a function of professionals and “creativity” as an expression of all people for distraction and soul health.
 12. The Genesis 1–2 account of creation includes the repeated commentary by God that “He saw and it was good.”
 13. Philip Graham Ryken, *Written in Stone: The Ten Commandments and Today’s Moral Crisis* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2003), 104.
 14. Richard Winter, *Still Bored in a Culture of Entertainment: Rediscovering Passion & Wonder* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2002), 33.
 15. *Ibid.*, 73. Winter quotes William F. May, *A Catalogue of Sins: A Contemporary Examination of Christian Conscience* (New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1967), 195–96 (emphasis added).

Chapter Nine: Perseverance as a Lifestyle

1. Blake Snyder, *Save the Cat: The Last Book on Screenwriting You’ll Ever Need* (Studio City, CA: Michael Wise Productions, 2005), xv.
2. *Rocky Balboa*, written/directed by Sylvester Stallone, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Columbia Pictures, 2006.
3. Donald Miller, *A Million Miles in a Thousand Years* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2011).
4. Timothy Keller, “Justice,” *Gospel in Life Sermons Podcast*, February 19, 2010.
5. Gordon MacDonald, *A Resilient Life: You Can Move Ahead No Matter What* (Nashville: Nelson Books, 2004), 16.
6. Genesis 3 recounts the “fall” of humankind into sin by disobedience to God’s command. That Adam and Eve were tempted by the serpent

- does not absolve them of responsibility. Their attempt to shift responsibility is the story of fallen humanity ever since. Repentance is the first step in healing, because it takes responsibility. In His grace, God foretold His plan of redemption through Jesus Christ (Gen. 3:14–15).
7. The story about an encounter with Jesus by a rich young ruler is found in Matthew 19:16–22, Mark 10:17–22, and Luke 18:18–23.
 8. Timothy Keller, *Walking with God through Pain and Suffering* (New York: Penguin Books, 2016), 77.
 9. Caroline Alexander, *The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2001), from the cover.
 10. *Ibid.*, 5.
 11. *Ibid.*
 12. *Ibid.*, 5–6 (emphasis added).

Epilogue

1. Ben Sasse, *Them: Why We Hate Each Other* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2018), 23.
2. *Ibid.*, 3.
3. *Ibid.*, 206.
4. Donald A. McGavran, *Understanding Church Growth*, Fully Revised (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1980), 214.
5. *Ibid.*, 339–40.
6. Sasse, *Them*, 211.
7. Ravi Zacharias, "The Touch of Truth," in *Telling the Truth: Evangelizing Postmoderns*, ed. D. A. Carson (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000), 38.

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