

The Perseverance of Christ

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⁵ *May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.* (2 Thessalonians 3:5 NIV)

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, 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. (Hebrews 12:1-2 NIV)

1. John and Eriko live in a. and they work in c.
a. Sendai b. Tokyo c. Fukushima d. Koriyama
2. The word **direct** in Japanese combines two words.
way + 1 inch.
3. There are seven steps to fortitude.
 - o Passion
 - o Effort
 - o Purpose
 - o Hope
 - o **Faith**
 - o Power
 - o **Encouragement**
4. What three things should we look at?
Witnesses (others) our self Jesus Christ
5. What obstacles did Jesus face?
The cross and shame

Life Group Homework

1. In times of need, where do you look for help? Not where should you . . . where do you?
2. How do fears, doubts or failures complicate your search?
3. 2 Thessalonians 3:5 is a practical prayer. How has prayer impacted your life recently?
4. Which of the seven steps to fortitude have been most helpful to you personally? Circle or underline one or more. Explain.
(passion, effort, purpose, hope, faith, power, encouragement)
5. Hebrews 12:1 refers to a cloud of witnesses. Talk about a scripture passage or person(s) who have cheered you on.
6. Jesus was in pursuit of "**the joy set before him.**" What is significant to you about His journey?