

*Perseverance.* We are currently walking together through a very difficult and somewhat confusing time. Now, more than ever, we need the strength to persevere and continue to move forward together.

Hebrews 12:1-2 [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, <sup>2</sup> 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.”*

Romans 5:3-8 [NIV]

*<sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*

*<sup>6</sup> You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

Perseverance is hard. And in times like this, we might not be able to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

But that’s why it’s so important to look to Jesus as the model of what it means to live through difficult moments.

Christ is risen, He loves us, and He will return for us.

And remembering that should give us the hope that we need to persevere through this difficult time.

**Things to think about:**

- Does knowing that Jesus loves you help strengthen you and encourage you in difficult moments?
- Does looking to Jesus as the model of what it means to persevere help encourage you to keep moving forward?
- How can you demonstrate the love of Jesus to others during a time when we can’t be together?
- How can you encourage others to stay strong and persevere?