



HERE & NOW

Week 3

BREAKING THE ICE

- What is the thing you are most excited about this week?
- Where did you see God move in your life last week?

MAIN CONTENT

This week in “Here & Now”, Pastor Kevin continued our series on Hebrews 12, all about running the race that the Lord has set out for us. This week, Kevin focused on what it looks like to run our race amidst pain and problems.

John 16:33 says, “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Problems will come, and pain comes with problems. Passion is what keeps us going despite the pain. When this pain comes, we have a strong temptation to give up. God encourages us to have perseverance. This word shows up in passages like Romans 5:3, “We also glory in our sufferings because we know that suffering produces perseverance.”

1. Why is there such a strong temptation to quit when things get hard?
2. How do we hold on to this perseverance to continue?

The translation that best captures the word perseverance is the two words patient endurance. This patience is not a passive waiting, it is active. We have to keep going and moving on and changing. We could have a life with zero pain and stay the same forever, or we could endure a little bit of pain and change into the people God created us to be. Change is hard, but it is necessary.

3. Is change something that you welcome with open arms, or are you a little more hesitant to change?

4. What is a change in your life that seems hard right now?

Pastor Kevin gave some practical steps to take when facing pain and problems. The first is to study Christ. The Bible calls us to “fix our eyes on Jesus”. We, as believers, are called to live with an eternal perspective. Yes, we will have hardships, but we also live in the hope that it will not last forever. One day, we will live in glory with the King and will never feel pain again. Jesus understands suffering, He experienced it Himself when He was on Earth. The next step is to consider Him.

Hebrews 13:3 says, “Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

To consider means to ponder, to process, to analyze, to compare. When you feel lonely, rejected, or sad ... consider Jesus. He experienced these feelings tenfold, to the fullest extent. Jesus understands, so bring it to Him.

5. If you feel comfortable sharing, what troubles are you facing right now?

6. How can you give these burdens to Jesus?

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank you for giving us purpose in the pain. Thank you for enduring the ultimate suffering of enduring the cross. You understand us and our hurt more than we could imagine. You formed us in our mother’s womb. You are Almighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. You have already overcome the world, let us live in that hope for the rest of our time on this Earth. We love you, Jesus. Amen.

ACTION STEP

- Bring your suffering to Jesus today. He understands.
- Pray for that patient endurance as you continue to run your race this week.
- Keep encouraging your friends to join Groups at crosspoint.tv/groups