

2/3/19

TAKE HOME

Speaker: Al

*(Further study on today's message for individuals, families, or small groups)*

**FOLLOWING JESUS: *Stay The Course!***

**GETTING STARTED**

- Have you ever been involved in a project that took a very long time to complete? What motivated you to complete it? How did you feel when you were done?
- Did you ever participate in a sport/marathon? How important was it for you to be prepared? What are the sacrifices? What are the benefits? Was it worth it?
- Is there anything in this week's message that caught your attention, challenged you or confused you?

**DIGGING DEEPER**

1. Pastor Al shared the story of Noah (Gen. 6 and following) and his faithful obedience to God's instructions. What do you think kept Noah motivated to do what God wanted for so many years? What would you have done?
2. You can imagine the ridicule Noah must have faced with his "building project"? Share examples of how today's culture can distract or discourage us from doing what God is asking us to do. How can we counter that?
3. Read James 1:2-8. According to James, what is the benefit of perseverance in obeying God? What does James offer as ways to help us "Stay the Course"?
4. According to James, is the difficulty of something a reason to back off? If not, what do we look for in our circumstances?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. How does this passage related to "staying the course" and persevering? What might be the "crowns" we might receive?
6. Share a story of how you faced something God was calling you to but it was difficult. How did you do? What were the distractions? What kept you going?

**TAKE AWAY**

1. What is one area of your life where you find it difficult to persevere right now? What would you identify as your main challenge in that situation? How is God speaking to you about this
2. From James 1 and other Scripture, list some of the benefits God might bring to your life through this situation. Ask God to help you see this through His eyes and give you the faith, strength, and discipline to keep going.
3. How can people be praying for you this week?

**Additional Resources ([www.RightNowMedia.com](http://www.RightNowMedia.com))**

- "Follow" (8 Sessions) – Andy Stanley
- "All In" (3 Sessions) – James Merritt
- "Perseverance" (Training Video) – Chuck Swindoll

*(Check out RightNowMedia.com for more resources. See bulletin for info on how to sign up)*

WELCOME TO GATEWAY



**February 3, 2019**

Each week at Gateway, we have the opportunity to give to a second cause for special projects.

**First Sundays - Deacons' Fund (Benevolence)**

The special cause today is for those facing times of extraordinary financial need. Your additional gift (specified with your online gift or on the envelope or the memo line of your check) goes to help those of our Gateway family (and beyond) in their times of special need.

**Every Sunday**

Food items for our Food Pantry

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Video sermons available online. Go to [gatewaymerced.org/messages](http://gatewaymerced.org/messages)

Series: "Following Jesus"  
Message: "Stay the Course"  
Main Scripture: Genesis 6:5-21 (p. 6)

Hebrews 11:7; 12:2-3

Psalms 36:5

Psalms 89:1-2

Psalms 145:13b

Hebrews 10:23

Psalms 84:10-12

Hearing God call us to go "all in" with Him:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Die to self/Pick up<br>your cross daily...<br>... <u>Follow Jesus</u> | 2. Burn the ships<br>Break the bottle...<br>... <u>No turning back</u>      |
| 3. Climb the Cliff<br>Trust in Him...<br>... <u>Move ahead</u>           | 4. Stay the course<br>With all your life for all your life...<br>..._____ - |

Genesis 6:6-21

*But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.*

→ Noah \_\_\_\_\_ for God!

→ And Noah \_\_\_\_\_ all in for God!

✓ An "all in for God life" is a \_\_\_\_\_ of perseverance, not just a

\_\_\_\_\_ of emotion! It's a \_\_\_\_\_, not just a \_\_\_\_\_.

James 1:2-4

Trial → Testing → \_\_\_\_\_ →

**As we follow Jesus, to get to Step 3 we have to go beyond Step 1 to Step 2. And we won't get to the Final Step if we stop at Step 3.**

**God called Noah – and calls us – to follow Him by:**

- ✓ Believing \_\_\_\_\_ God (trusting Him) \_\_\_\_\_ our eternal lives
- ✓ Believing God \_\_\_\_\_ our lives (for our whole lives)

*Cf. 2 Timothy 4:7-8*

Key: keep moving – persevere; went all in, stayed; life, spasm; marathon, sprint; perseverance, maturity; in, for, with  
Especially helpful for this message: "All In" by Mark Batterson