



What is the difference between “toughing it out” and what Jairus was asked to do? What are your greatest fears? Do you ever call “fear” something else? What are things that don’t work when you feel afraid?

For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion

1. In teaching a child or young person about response to difficulty, how would you distinguish between biblical endurance and presenting a “stiff upper lip”?
2. What characteristics of Jesus’ divine nature are on display in his dealings with Jairus? What relational characteristics of His human personality are present?
3. What are your greatest or most common fears? How may they have changed over the years, particularly in relation to your growing knowledge of Christ? Do you ever relabel fear as something else? Procrastination is one non-productive way to deal with some fears. Can you think of ineffective ways?
4. Read Luke 18:1ff. What other passages or promises support your perseverance in prayer? What can make intercession a hefty spiritual labor?
5. The leper who met Jesus (Mt 8:2ff; Mk 1:40ff; Lk 5:12ff) did not appeal to Him based on His capacity to heal (a given), but upon His *willingness*. The greater labor for us is not whether the Lord can meet our particular need, but whether He wills to do so. How do James (in mundane issues – 4:13-16), John (in broader issues – 1 Jn 5:14-15), and the writer of Hebrews (a temporal perspective – 11:13-14 and 39-40) address this issue?
6. What does endurance have in common with patience? How are they different?
7. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. Describe how this perspective can be used practically on a regular basis.

NEXT WEEK: Tom Basile, serving with New Church Initiatives

Jesus and Jairus: Perseverance in Shoe Leather
(Mark 5:21-43)

Life is tough (Job 14:1; John 16:33a; 2 Pet 4:12). Perseverance in trial not only brings reward (Heb. 10:35-36; Jas. 1:12) but is the *hallmark* of our faith in Christ (Col. 1:22-23). Consider that long-haul perseverance is often but a succession of persistence in short-term circumstances or events. Case in point? Jairus. What got him through one terrible moment can be used again, and again, and again – by us.

1. Jairus – a synagogue ruler in Capernaum
 - a. His **familiarity** with Jesus (Mk 1:21ff; Lk 4:33ff; Mk 2:1ff; Lk 7:2ff; Jn 4:46ff)
 - b. His **crisis** with his daughter (vs. 23)
 - c. His **faith** is displayed in his appeal to Jesus.
2. His hoped for miracle is “interrupted” by another in need (vs. 25-34)
 - a. It represents **time lost!**
 - b. And generates **stress amplified.**
3. The arrival of the worst of news – his daughter’s death (vs. 35)
 - a. It becomes the occasion of his greatest **fear.**
 - b. And the occasion for his greatest **benefit.**
4. Jesus reveals the key factors in perseverance (vs. 36)
 - a. “Don’t continue to **fear;**”
 - b. “just continue to **believe.**”
5. Note the following:
 - a. Jesus hadn’t **forgotten** about Jairus.
 - b. Jesus spoke to him **directly.**
 - c. Jesus recognized the **nature and depth** of his wounds.
 - d. Jesus singularly addressed Jairus’ **will.**