

# Building Bridges

Heb. 12:1-2

*“Building the Bridge to Keep Building Bridges”*

Heb. 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,  
2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Our theme this year is building bridges.

The last three weeks ago, we have considered...

*“Building a Bridge When You Are Not Sure Where You Are Going”*

*“Mothers – Building Bridges for a Lifetime”*

*“Crisscrossing the Bridge Within Us”*

## I. THE OPERATION OF BRIDGE BUILDING, 12:1

Heb. 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

### A. The Motivation to Keep Building

Others have built them – “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses...”



## B. The Methods to Keep Building

- Eliminate the encumbrances – “...let us lay aside every weight...”

**Original Word:** ὄγκος

**Transliteration:** ogkos

**Definition:** (properly: bulk, mass, hence) a **weight**, burden, encumbrance.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/3591.htm>

## Abraham and Isaac – perhaps the offering of Isaac was the removal of a “weight”

- Eradicate the evil – “...and the sin...”
- Envision the encircling – “...which doth so easily beset *US...*”

**Original Word:** εὐπερίστατος

**Transliteration:** euperistatos

**Definition:** easily **beset**, surrounding, encircling, easily distracted.

**A serious hindrance that "*encircles*" (hampers) someone who desperately needs to advance.**

<http://biblehub.com/greek/2139.htm>

Weights and sins so easily encircle us, inhibiting us as we try to “run the race” that God has intended for our lives. A loose shoelace can trip up the most experienced runner!

- Endure the engagement – “...let us run with patience...”

**Original Word:** τρέχω

**Transliteration:** trechó

**Definition:** I **run**, exercise myself, make progress.

**Original Word:** ὑπομονή

**Transliteration:** hupomoné

**Definition:** endurance, steadfastness, patient waiting for or **patience**

Properly, *remaining under*, endurance; steadfastness, especially as *God enables* the believer to "*remain (endure) under*" the challenges He allots in life.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/5281.htm>



In the NT the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings.

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G5281&t=KJV>

Jas. 1:3 Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh **patience**.

4 But let **patience** have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

- End the encounter – “...the **race** that is **set** before us,”

**Original Word:** ἀγών

**Transliteration:** agón

**Definition:** an (athletic) contest, **race**, conflict; hence, a struggle (in the soul).



In the ancient world, athletic contests could be *so severe* they caused the toughest men to crumble. Indeed, this was common (so Euripedes, Xenophon).]

<http://biblehub.com/greek/73.htm>

Phil. 1:30 Having the same **conflict** which ye saw in me, and now hear *to be* in me.

Col. 2:1 For I would that ye knew what great **conflict** I have for you, and *for* them at Laodicea, and *for* as many as have not seen my face in the flesh;

1 Thess. 2:2 But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much **contention**.

1 Tim. 6:12 Fight the good **fight** of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

**Original Word:** πρόκειμαι

**Transliteration:** prokeimai

**Definition:** I am set (placed, put) before, am already there.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/4295.htm>

- God “set” the purpose, the “race” itself, not just the path for our life’s race.

The Apostle Paul’s attitude when he was building bridges is seen in Acts 20:24:

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, **so that I might finish my course with joy**, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

His attitude at the end is seen in 2 Tim. 4:7.

2 Tim. 4:7 I have fought a good **fight, I have finished my course**, I have kept the faith:

Note: What Paul had taught about John the Baptist:

Acts 13:25 And **as John fulfilled his course**, he said, Whom think ye that I am? I am not *he*. But, behold, there cometh one after me, whose shoes of *his* feet I am not worthy to loose.



## II. THE OBJECTIVE OF BRIDGE BUILDING. 12:2

Heb. 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

A. The Focusing of our Purpose – “Looking unto Jesus the author and finish of *our* faith...”

- Look to the Lord – “Looking unto Jesus...”

**Original Word:** ἀφοράω

**Transliteration:** aphoraó

**Definition:** I look away from (something else) to, see distinctly.

Properly, "*looking away from all else, to fix one's gaze upon*" (*Abbott-Smith*). <http://biblehub.com/greek/872.htm>

To turn the eyes away from other things and fix them on something

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G872&t=KJV>

- Learn the lesson – “...the author and finisher of *our* faith...”
  - The Lord Jesus Christ is the Founder

**Original Word:** ἀρχηγός

**Transliteration:** archégos

**Definition:** originator, author, founder, prince, leader.

Acts 3:15 And killed the **Prince** of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

Acts 5:31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand *to be* a **Prince** and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.



Heb. 2:10 For it became him, for whom *are* all things, and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the **captain** of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

- The Lord Jesus Christ is the Finisher

**Original Word:** τελειωτής

**Transliteration:** teleiôtés

**Definition:** a perfecter, completer, finisher.

Properly, a consummator, bringing a process to its finish (used only in Heb 12:2).

This **specifically refers to Jesus, the one bringing the life of faith to its complete conclusion** (*consummation, finish*).

<http://biblehub.com/greek/5051.htm>

Phil. 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that **he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:**

Eph. 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a **perfect** man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Col. 1:28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man **perfect** in Christ Jesus:

Col. 4:12 Epaphras, who is *one* of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand **perfect** and complete in all the will of God.

Heb. 5:14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of **full age**, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Jas. 1:4 But let patience have *her* **perfect** work, that ye may be **perfect** and entire, wanting nothing.

1 Jn. 4:18 There is no fear in love; but **perfect** love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

B. The Finishing of our Passion – “...who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”



- Enjoy the end – “...who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross...”
  - Enjoy the vision – “...who for the joy that was set before him...”
  - Endure for victory – “...endured the cross, despising the shame...”

**Original Word:** ὑπομένω

**Transliteration:** hypomenó

**Definition:** (a) I remain behind, (b) I stand my ground, show endurance, (c) I **endure**, bear up against, persevere.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/5278.htm>

- Exalt the Eternal One – “...and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

1 Pet. 5:11 **To him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever.**  
Amen.

2 Pet. 3:18 But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge **of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.**

Rom. 11:36 For of **him**, and through **him**, and to **him**, *are* all things: **to whom *be* glory for ever. Amen.**

## Conclusion

1 Cor. 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? **So run, that ye may obtain.**

25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible **crown; but we an incorruptible.**

Jas. 1:12 Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, **he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.**