

1 **Hyperloop**

- The Guide to no nonsense Spiritual Development

2 **Tonight's Scripture**

- 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. (Heb 12:1 NIV)
- Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb 12:2 NIV)

3 **Introduction**

- If you've ever driven Interstate 5 from Los Angeles to San Francisco, you know you're going to be in for a long haul.
- On a good day, with light traffic, you can do it in about six hours.
- But "light traffic" and "California" don't always go together, so you'd better plan for at least eight hours in the car.

4 **Introduction**

- You could try to cut the time down by flying.
- The actual flight time from LAX to SFO is about an hour, but that doesn't count traffic time getting to the airport, arriving a couple of hours early, and getting through security -- all of which could add up to a five- or six-hour ordeal in itself.
- Not much of a time saver.

5 **LA Traffic**

6 **Introduction**

- Given all those California hassles, it's no wonder that people in Hollywood envisioned things like the "beam me up, Scotty" teleportation in Star Trek or the hyperspace travel of Star Wars.
- Anything to beat the traffic!

7 **Introduction**

- A proposed transit system, however, might bring teleportation a little closer to reality than even studio special effects wizards could imagine.
- Soon to be in testing is a high-speed train called the "Hyperloop," which promises to transport people from L.A. to San Fran in about 30 minutes at speeds averaging close to 600 mph.

8 **Introduction**

- You've heard of the bullet trains in Europe and the Far East, which travel at about 240 mph.
- The Hyperloop makes that technology look like a Model T.
- The Hyperloop system runs on solar power, using reduced pressure tubes in which a pressurized capsules ride on a cushion of air driven by linear induction motors and compressors.

- Think of it sort of like the vacuum tube that your bank uses at the drive-through to suck your paycheck away from the car window, only faster.

9 Introduction

- This is “the closest thing to tele-transportation,” says chief operating officer Bibop Gresta of Hyperloop Transportation Technologies, a company created by Tesla Motors and SpaceX entrepreneur Elon Musk for the project.
- “It will change humanity.”

10 Transformation

- I don't know about you, but that's a bold claim.
- While it might help us get our bodies from one place to another nearly as fast as the speed of sound, the Hyperloop won't help us become better people once we get there.
- There's a difference between transportation and transformation, and between commuting and character.

11 Transformation

- As the Bible tells us, there's no hyperloop to holiness.
- Real transformation usually requires a slower, meandering path that is more rocky and difficult than gliding on a cushion of air.
- The path of faith, says the writer, requires more patience and perseverance than power and propulsion.

12 Heroes of Faith

- Hebrews 11 is often called the “faith chapter” because the writer uses several examples of what faith looks like in the face of adversity.
- These "heroes" of the faith had their flaws, to be sure, and their mistakes and missteps were as familiar to us as their triumphs.
- All of them were on the way to somewhere, but never fully reached their destination during their lifetime.
- As the writer puts it, All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. (Heb 11:13 NIV).

13 Faith & Perseverance

- Despite all this dysfunction, fear and bad decision-making, God was able to use each of these flawed heroes to preserve his people.
- It was their faith and perseverance, and not their innate ability, that enabled them to be used by God.

- It was, through faith [they] conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. (Heb 11:33–34 NIV)

14 **Hardship on the Journey**

- The writer goes on to a long list of the hardships endured by people who took the journey of faith.
 - They died in horrible ways “in order to obtain a better resurrection” (v. 35).
 - They suffered torture and imprisonment.
 - They suffered death by stoning, being sawed in two and by the sword.
 - They suffered extreme poverty and persecution.
 - They wandered through deserts and mountains, sleeping in caves and holes in the ground (vv. 36-38).

15 **Faith & Perseverance**

- Their character and faith development was neither fast nor easy.
- The end of the journey wasn’t completely clear (v. 39), and yet God was setting them up for a destination even better than they could imagine (v. 40).
- Given the faithful example of this “great cloud of witnesses,” the writer of Hebrews urges us to chuck our desire for the quick fix and the weight of sin that tends to slow us down and, instead, “run with perseverance the race that is set before us” (12:1).

16 **Ultimate Example**

- The ultimate example of someone who knew what it meant to persevere in the face of opposition is Jesus Christ.
- Here is a man who was approved by God through signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit . . . (Heb 2:4 NIV), yet was despised and rejected of men.
- This is why the Scripture says for us to “fix our eyes” on Him.
- Not that this is some mystical way, but to look to him as an example of what to do when our faith is being challenged or resisted by evil men.

17 **Motivating Factor**

- The number one motivating factor in Jesus’ attitude was that He understood the end from beginning.
- In other words, He was able to deal with the scorn and shame of His ministry being rejected by fixing His eyes on the prize.
- This is why the Scripture says, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb 12:2 NIV)
- Jesus knew that His steadfastness on behalf of the Father’s interest would win for Himself a name that was above all names—Lord of lords and King of kings.

18 Fixing Our Eyes

- Therefore when our faith, ministry, or integrity is being challenged we ought to remember the actions of Jesus who also faced the same kind of situations.
- As the Scripture says, Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (Heb 12:3 NIV)
- I don't know if you at all realize this, but it is awful hard to be encouraged, when you face opposition.
- In fact, most people quit and give up. Whether it is in regard to one's faith, convictions, or ministry.

19 The Path of Faith

- In a world that always looks for the path of least resistance, the path of faith often looks dangerous and difficult.
- People who complain about a little traffic or a delay at the airport will have a hard time enduring real suffering and persecution when it comes.
- In our impatience, we look for shortcuts to life and even shortcuts to faith, believing that it should be easier.

20 Marathon not a Sprint

- However, Jesus rids us of that notion, reminding us that following him requires the mindset of a marathon runner with all the accompanying perseverance and sweat.
- As Paul puts it in Romans, we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. (Rom 5:3–4 NIV)

21 Perseverance is a Virtue

- In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus says . . . the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. (Luke 8:15 NIV)
- Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. (2 Th 1:4 NIV)
- May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance. (2 Th 3:5 NIV)

22 Perseverance is a Virtue

- You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. (Heb 10:36 NIV)
- Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. (James 1:12 NIV)
- I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. (Rev 2:2–3 NIV)

23 Troubles

- According to the Apostle Paul, in our walk of faith there will be a lot of times in which we'll need to persevere, yet God has promised never to leave us.
 - We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. (2 Cor 4:8 NIV)
 - Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. (2 Cor 4:9 NIV)
 - So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (2 Cor 4:16–18 NIV)

24 Summary

- The moral of this story is that during times of trouble, persecution, or disappointments, we should keep our eyes on Jesus.
- The reason being is because He showed us that by fixing our eyes on the prize, we would find added strength to remain steadfast in our walk of faith.
- Not only this,
 - For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. (Heb 4:15 NIV)
 - Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Heb 4:16 NIV)

25 Conclusion

- So as we take Communion tonight, let us no remember these following points:
 - There's no short-cuts to faith, we all will need to persevere through trials.
 - The heroes of faith and even Jesus himself, all successfully persevered because they all had their eyes fixed on the prize.
 - [Therefore] Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. (Gal 6:9 NIV)