

“HEROES OF FAITH: JACOB”

¹³As soon as Laban heard that his nephew Jacob had arrived, he ran out to meet him. He embraced and kissed him and brought him home. When Jacob had told him his story, ¹⁴Laban exclaimed, ‘You really are my own flesh and blood!’ After Jacob had stayed with Laban for about a month, ¹⁵Laban said to him, ‘You shouldn’t work for me without pay just because we are relatives. Tell me how much your wages should be.’ ¹⁶Now Laban had two daughters. The older daughter was named Leah, and the younger one was Rachel. ¹⁸Since Jacob was in love with Rachel, he told her father, ‘I’ll work for you for seven years if you’ll give me Rachel, your younger daughter, as my wife.’ (Genesis 29:13-16, 18 NLT)

MY FAITH GROWS STRONGER EVERY TIME I REFUSE TO QUIT.

PERSEVERANCE STRENGTHENS MY FAITH WHEN I...

1. EXPECT CHALLENGES IN MY LIFE.

“So Jacob worked seven years to pay for Rachel. But his love for her was so strong that it seemed to him but a few days. Finally, the time came for him to marry her. ‘I have fulfilled my agreement,’ Jacob said to Laban... ‘What have you done to me?’ Jacob raged at Laban. ‘I worked seven years for Rachel! Why have you tricked me?’” (Genesis 29:20-21, 25)

(Jesus) “I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

2. LOOK FOR GOD’S PURPOSE WHILE I’M WAITING.

“So Jacob agreed to work seven more years. A week after Jacob had married Leah, Laban gave him Rachel, too.” (Genesis 29:28)

➤ GOD MAKES US WAIT BECAUSE...

- GOD WANTS TO DRAW US CLOSER.
- GOD HAS SOMETHING BETTER FOR US.
- GOD WANTS ME TO GROW.

MEMORY VERSE

“When troubles of any kind come your way consider it an opportunity for great joy, for you know that when your faith is tested your endurance has a chance to grow, so let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed you will be perfect, and complete, needing nothing.” (James 1:2-4)

3. LEAN ON GOD IN UNCERTAINTY.

“I am with you, and I will protect you wherever you go.” (Genesis 28:15)

“For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.” (Philippians 4:13)

4. REMAIN FAITHFUL AND DON’T QUIT.

“As a result, Jacob became very wealthy...” (Genesis 30:43)

“So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.” (Galatians 6:9)

GOING DEEPER

1. What bad habits am I using to persevere through challenging times?
2. When is a time I have quit too soon and regretted it?
3. When I look back on my life do I see how persevering helped grow my faith?
4. How did Jesus persevere through temptation and the cross?