

*becoming*



*Sermon Notes*

  
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Becoming: Sermon Notes

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# STEADFASTNESS: JOSEPH

*<sup>3</sup>His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, <sup>4</sup>by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. <sup>5</sup>For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, <sup>6</sup>and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, <sup>7</sup>and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. <sup>8</sup>For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. <sup>10</sup>Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. <sup>11</sup>For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

2 Peter 1:3–11

## RECAP

- Week 1: Who are you becoming?
- Rest of series: Virtues listed in 2 Peter 1:5–7
- Last 4 Weeks: Faith, Virtue, Knowledge, & Self-control

We become who God wants us to become when we remain steadfast in the face of unexpected and difficult circumstances.

## WHAT IS STEADFASTNESS?

*<sup>6</sup>and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness,*

2 Peter 1:6a

- What is steadfastness?
  - “To hold out or bear up in the face of difficulty”
  - Endurance, perseverance

*Steadfastness is “needed to stand firm in one’s commitment to Jesus over the long haul in the face of persecution or other hardships.*

Peter H. Davids, 2 Peter, Jude, 181

*<sup>3</sup>Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

Romans 5:3–5

*<sup>2</sup>Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, <sup>3</sup>for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. <sup>4</sup>And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

James 1:2–4

## THE EXAMPLE OF JOSEPH’S STEADFASTNESS

Genesis 37–50

### Joseph’s Story

*<sup>23</sup>So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the robe of many colors that he wore. <sup>24</sup>And they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.*

*<sup>25</sup>Then they sat down to eat. And looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. <sup>26</sup>Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? <sup>27</sup>Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers listened to him. <sup>28</sup>Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt.*

Genesis 37:23–28

*<sup>2</sup>The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. <sup>3</sup>His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. <sup>4</sup>So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. <sup>5</sup>From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the LORD blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field. <sup>6</sup>So he left all that he had in Joseph’s charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.*

Genesis 39:2–6a

*<sup>21</sup>But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. <sup>22</sup>And the keeper of the prison put*

*Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it.*

Genesis 39:21–22

*<sup>37</sup>This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants. <sup>38</sup>And Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?” <sup>39</sup>Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are. <sup>40</sup>You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you.” <sup>41</sup>And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.” <sup>42</sup>Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph’s hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck. <sup>43</sup>And he made him ride in his second chariot. And they called out before him, “Bow the knee!” Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt. <sup>44</sup>Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no one shall lift up hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.”*

Genesis 41:37–44

*<sup>15</sup>When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him.” <sup>16</sup>So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this command before he died: <sup>17</sup>‘Say to Joseph, “Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.”’ And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. <sup>21</sup>So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.*

Genesis 50:15–21

## What can we learn from Joseph’s steadfastness?

- We learn steadfastness in the face of unexpected and difficult circumstances.
- We can remain steadfast because we trust God is sovereignly and providentially in control.
- We can remain steadfast because we trust God is personally with us.
- We grow in character when we’re steadfast in the face of unexpected and difficult circumstances.

# THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS' STEADFASTNESS

*<sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup>He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup>When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*

1 Peter 2:21–25

- We can remain steadfast because Jesus remained steadfast.
- Jesus not only modeled steadfastness; he enables steadfastness.

*<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup>Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.*

Hebrews 12:1–3

- Do you want to remain steadfast? Don't take your eyes off Jesus!
- Because of Jesus, we not only know what true steadfastness looks like; we know where true steadfastness is found.

## QUESTIONS FOR PRAYERFUL REFLECTION THIS WEEK

- Think about a previous experience where you were steadfast. What did you learn about God and yourself from that experience?
- How are you preparing for the next unexpected and difficult circumstance?
- How can you better look to Jesus now to remain steadfast for the future?
- How can steadfastness help you become who God wants you to become?

Who are you becoming? Are you becoming steadfast?