

Cutting Corners

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Our grandchildren, Eric and MacKenzie, begin each school day by walking laps around a designated course on the school playground. This is a program where the students attempt to walk one hundred miles over the course of the school year. Those who succeed are awarded a shiny gold medal.

To no one's surprise, there are some kids who will cut corners in an attempt to quickly gain more laps. Sadly, some parents walking with their children will also cut corners. This is often the way of the world.

Many in our world are constantly looking for a shortcut to the goal. Few seem interested in long and difficult endeavors to obtain the prize. Cutting corners is routine procedure for those always looking for the quick and easy route.

As a result of cutting corners, it is sometimes hard to find quality service and dependable products. Hastily completed repairs never last. A lack of attention to detail results in failures and delays. Who wants a mechanic, surgeon, or contractor who cuts corners? No doubt, you have at some point in your life been frustrated by someone who was cutting corners at your expense.

When it comes to being a Christian, and enjoying all that such a life has to offer, there can be no cutting corners, though some try. There is no quick and easy route to spiritual maturity. There are no Cliffs Notes to gaining a full understanding of the Bible. The Bible presents the Christian life as anything but a shortcut.

For you have need of **endurance**, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

Hebrews 10:36 (Emphasis Mine)

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and **let us run with endurance** the race that is set before us,

Hebrews 12:1 (Emphasis Mine)

I have fought the good fight, **I have finished the course**, I have kept the faith;
2 Timothy 4:7 (Emphasis Mine)

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces **endurance**. And let **endurance** have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James 1:2-4 (Emphasis Mine)

Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being **patient** about it, until it gets the early and late rains.

James 5:7 (Emphasis Mine)

Over and over we find verses like these which indicate that the Christian life requires patience, endurance, and hard work. If more brethren would stop looking for shortcuts and avoid cutting corners, they would experience a much more rewarding life as Christians. Remember, we can rejoice **in the Lord always**, not in the world.