THE BEAUTY OF ORDINARY PERSEVERANCE IN A DEMANDING WORLD

WHEATON, Ill.—What does the Christian life look like when life is unpredictable, hard, or just plain ordinary? Living in today’s instant-gratification world where results are quickly measured, words like discipline and perseverance tend to be avoided, evoking thoughts of legalism and asceticism. This perspective has made its way into the church as well, influencing believers to expect spiritual growth to be instantaneous and sanctification to be quickly measurable.

In *Everyday Faithfulness: The Beauty of Ordinary Perseverance in a Demanding World* (Crossway, June 2020), published in partnership with the Gospel Coalition’s Women’s Initiative, Glenna Marshall demonstrates how holding fast to Christ on a regular basis feeds a believer’s future faithfulness with his goodness as they treasure the Bible, pray without ceasing, and commit themselves to the body of Christ.

Marshall writes, “Following Christ with everyday faithfulness—doing the work of perseverance while also trusting God to work—can feel like an endless endeavor with slow-yielding results. The devices we chain ourselves to for knowledge, connection, and entertainment do not require that we wait or try very hard. We press buttons or give voice commands, and the world rushes to our fingertips. If the Wi-Fi is poor, we bristle with impatience. If the content on one site bores us, we click over to another. Our culture does not aid us in the discipline of perseverance, and yet God calls us to persevere in faithfulness to him... The Christian’s perseverance keeps her life rooted in the habits and practices that keep her near the Father’s side so that her spiritual maturity is pleased to grow.”

Working through the unique challenges that come with seasons of waiting, caretaking, suffering, worry, spiritual dryness, and more, *Everyday Faithfulness* delves into practical ways to build habits into everyday life that will aid in spiritual growth throughout a lifetime. It also includes real-life examples of ordinary women who display regular, everyday faithfulness even when their lives are demanding, mundane, or discouraging.

“Faithfulness is an everyday calling,” writes Marshall. “It’s regular, it’s ordinary, it’s taking a really long view of the Christian life. It’s reshaping our desires for immediate fruit and committing to following Jesus for the long haul. It’s getting up every single day and believing that God is your treasure, that the gospel of Jesus is worth your every breath, and that he is enough. Faithfulness is doing this again tomorrow and the next day and ten years from now. Faithfulness is ordinary. It’s unremarkable. It plods. It is also precious in the sight of the God who works out lifelong sanctifying perseverance in your life for your good and his glory.”
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Glenna Marshall (BA, Union University) is a pastor’s wife in rural Southeast Missouri, where she is the mother of two energetic sons. She is the author of *The Promise Is His Presence* and writes regularly at GlennaMarshall.com on biblical literacy, suffering, and the faithfulness of God.

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