

THE ASCENT

PSALMS 120-134

PART 11

*Can't Keep A
Good Man Down*



We *sing* to remember

That we're God's chosen people

That we've been selected to carry out God's purpose

That we've been divinely supplied with everything we need for the journey to God.

Psalm 129

Persecuted from my earliest youth (Israel is speaking) I'm faced with never-ending discrimination—but I'm not destroyed! My enemies have never been able to finish me off! Though my back is cut to ribbons by their whips, the Lord is good. For he snapped the chains that evil men had bound me with. May all who hate God's people be brought to ignominious defeat. May they be as grass in shallow soil, turning yellow and withered when half grown, ignored by the reaper, despised by the binder. And may those passing by refuse to bless them by saying, "The Lord bless you."



“IMPRECATORY”

to invoke evil or a curse upon something.

It's a defiant declaration
that even though you've
knocked me down,
you can't keep me down



Then, inexplicably,
Psalm 129's enduring
discipleship principle:

the determination to persevere

God's People Endure!

Israel had enemies
right from the beginning
("from my earliest youth")

But each time, over time God
gave his people **victory**

Your enemies seek to weaken your resolve to trust in God's sufficiency and obey his commands; they seek to enslave you to a life that is far less than God's best.



“Very often what God first helps us towards is not the virtue itself but just this power of always trying again.”

C.S. LEWIS

Not perfection, but *perseverance* is what victorious discipleship is all about!



A blue-tinted photograph of a mountain range. In the foreground, a group of hikers is gathered on a rocky, snow-dusted slope. Some are standing and looking towards the mountains, while others are sitting or resting. The background features a large, prominent mountain peak with a snow-covered summit. The overall scene conveys a sense of adventure and perseverance.

Trying again is the mark of an enduring discipleship!

“Having disarmed the powers and authorities, Jesus made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”

COLOSSIANS 2:15



*“In all these things we are more than conquerors
through him who loved us.”*

ROMANS 8:37

*“But thanks be to God, who always leads us in
triumphal procession in Christ and through us
spreads everywhere the fragrance of the
knowledge of him.”*

II CORINTHIANS 2:14

The background of the image is a solid blue color. In the lower half, there are dark silhouettes of several people climbing a mountain. They are using ropes and are positioned at different heights on the rocky terrain. The overall scene is one of a challenging mountain ascent.

First

don't be discouraged by
unknown outcomes in your
journey

Second

don't be daunted by the
impossibility of your journey



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Third

don't get disturbed by delays
on your journey

*“To [face] what is
difficult all one’s
days, as if it were
easy, that is faith.”*

W. H. AUDEN

