

TBN

RUN WITH ENDURANCE

... so others can find hope

Dear Friend and Partner,

Have you ever launched into a new year full of purpose and hope, only to get a month or two in and feel like you're ready to give up? Last month we talked about how the key to a powerful 2026 can be found in celebrating the storms. Perhaps by now you're already asking, "Just how much longer is this thing going to last?"

A difficult relationship, issues at work, a besetting habit or behavior you feel powerless to overcome. The scenarios might be endless, but for us as believers, regardless of how impossible the circumstances we face may seem, through Christ there is always a path forward. Hebrews 12:1-2 encourages us to lay aside every obstacle, distraction, and weight that would hold us back, and *"run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...."*

This reminds me of a nearly disastrous hunting trip I went on in Alaska with a friend just after Laurie and I were married. We'd been exploring an outer island and were due to rendezvous late that afternoon with the boat that would return us to the mainland. It was about a two-hour trek from our camp to the coast, and we'd been given directions, based on the topographical landmarks, on exactly where to head. Unfortunately, a massive fog bank rolled in that morning, completely obscuring the landscape. We had little choice but to give it our best shot.

A couple of hours and a rather pleasant hike later, we reached the coast. Only instead of a nice sandy cove, we found ourselves atop a sheer cliff some seven hundred feet above the pounding surf. We'd missed our key landmark and veered significantly off course!

An hour of doubling back brought us to a creek descending through a small gully back toward our destination. With fatigue setting in and the day waning, we scrambled off along its rocky course, traversing down a series of small waterfalls

**Matt and Laurie Crouch**

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without incident. It soon became apparent, however, that our little gully was quickly becoming a steep-walled ravine.

That's when we came to the thirty-five-foot waterfall. We certainly couldn't jump it, but there was at least enough slope to the ravine that if we tossed our gear ahead of us, we could slide our way down the side and into the creek below.

Safely at the bottom, freezing water up to our thighs, we were suddenly struck by a paralyzing realization. There was no way back. None. A mountain of water thundered behind us and the ravine walls had now grown so high that the sky was but a thin ribbon above our heads. Jesus' admonition about putting your hand to the plow and looking back? He didn't even leave us the choice.

Nor did we have any idea of what lay ahead of us. What if the next waterfall was a one hundred-foot drop? What if the grizzlies started coming out for their evening snacks? All I knew was I'd only been married a month and there was no way I was dying on that stupid island. The sole way out was onward. So we plunged ahead, step by step, our eyes locked forward and upward.

In many ways, the work we are doing together at TBN feels similar. The path forward is certain, but not always clear or easy. The culture is loud, attention is fractured, and truth is often hard to come by. Still, step by step, through persistence and faith, we continue moving forward, trusting that God has made preparation for what we cannot.

Sometimes the idea of "running with endurance" can feel like another burden, something we have to do in order to be with Jesus. In truth, it's the exact opposite. Endurance is the fruit we enjoy by looking to Jesus. It's not a burden, but a promise! Just as we saw with Peter walking on water, when we keep our eyes on Jesus, He's the one who supernaturally sustains us. It's only up to us to take the next step forward.

Getting back to my story, I did, in fact, finally reach the point of giving up. The creek had taken an impassable turn. Darkness had all but closed in. Cold, wet, tired, and hungry, we felt utterly hopeless. All we could do was look up at that thin ribbon of sky with a silent, desperate prayer for help. And that's when I noticed the far side of the ravine. The slope over there wasn't nearly as high and actually appeared scalable. Extinguishing the very last of our strength, we soon found ourselves not only free of the creek, but on a stretch of open ground sloping gently to the sea and our miraculously still waiting boat.

What strikes me about the whole adventure is that when I'd reached my most despairing moment, my answer was just fifty feet away from me — and I didn't know it! What's more, even if I could have somehow retraced my steps up that ravine, I would certainly have missed the boat and likely frozen to death overnight. The impossibility of my situation hadn't been stopping me. It was protecting me!

Friend, I pray you take this as a great encouragement. When you feel like you don't have the strength, courage, or patience to keep going, the answer may just be 50 feet away, and you don't even know it! Keep your eyes on the "Author and Finisher" of your faith and He will give you the endurance to make it through. Because He has "overcome the world" (John 16:33), we can live as overcomers and help others find the way as well.

Every day at TBN, our mission, through the prayer and support of partners like you, is to direct searching hearts to Jesus and the salvation, healing, and hope He gives to all who will trust Him. TBN's global outreach is sustained, month by month, through the generous gifts of our faithful partners. Will you join us with your best gift today? Thank you for standing with us.

“...and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, LOOKING UNTO JESUS, the author and finisher of our faith....”

— Hebrews 12:1-2 (NKJV)

You are a blessing,

Matt and Laurie Crouch

THE LOVE LANGUAGE THAT MATTERS MOST

LOVE LANGUAGE 2.0



WITH DR. GARY CHAPMAN AND DRS. LES & LESLIE PARROTT

FEB. 13
BEGINNING AT 8pm ET

Make Your Love Personal!

Join relationship experts Dr. Gary Chapman and Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott as they team up to help you personalize your expression of love to those you care about most. It all starts with a special *Praise* program hosted by Matt and Laurie Crouch, followed by back-to-back episodes of *The Love Language That Matters Most*. Don't miss it!

Learn to Hear God's Voice

God Still Speaks is a dynamic monthly series exploring how God continues to speak in our world today. Each exciting episode unpacks current events with spiritual insight, showing how God often gives believers wisdom and discernment before a significant event unfolds. Join us as we grow in the confidence to personally hear and respond to God's voice.



WITH HOSTS MATT CROUCH AND SUNIL ISAAC

WATCH NOW ON
TBN+

BEHIND THE SCENES

Better TOGETHER



Celebrate the Gift of Love

God created the blessing of marriage to be a partnership of mutual love, honor, and support. Join Laurie Crouch and guest hosts Dr. DeeDee Freeman, Sheila Walsh, Dr. Angie Richey, and Dr. Irini Fambro for inspiring conversations on how to navigate challenges in relationships, celebrate your spouse's differences, and more engaging topics. Don't miss this special week to celebrate love with *Better Together*.

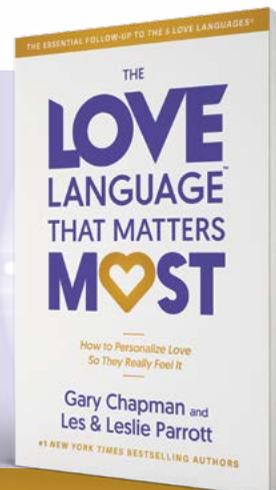
GOD'S DESIGN FOR MARRIAGE

FEB. 9-13
1:30pm ET

Make a Lasting Impact on Those You Love!

In the followup to Dr. Gary Chapman's *New York Times* bestseller, *The Five Love Languages*, Dr. Chapman teams up with Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott to show you how to personalize your expression of love by uncovering the unique dialect of each of the five love languages. Receive *The Love Language That Matters Most* for your gift of \$20 or more to TBN.

And for your gift of \$55 or more, you'll also receive access to the exclusive *Five Love Languages Premium Assessment*. This personalized assessment will give you an in-depth understanding of your Love Language profile with a 15-page report that breaks down your unique tendencies and preferences.



Claim this one-time offer at TBN.org/mattersmost or call toll-free 800-301-8755.