

Dear NU Community,

Newt Gingrich is known for a quote about perseverance. He said, "Perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did." In the past few days, conversations with individuals have led me to believe many might be ready to quit. A pastor friend who is giving up his position, a student who doesn't know if they will graduate, and a colleague who is not sure if they should go back to school late in life. During my doctoral studies, there were many times I wanted to quit. One of the biggest lessons I learned was to persevere and not give up. A friend told me the goal is to finish, and thankfully no one ever asked about my grades!

Jesus reminds us to ask and keep on asking, seek and keep on seeking, and if you keep at it, the door will open eventually (Luke 11:9). Often, we give up too soon because we compare ourselves to how easy it appeared for someone else. Too often, we see a highly "spiritual" person and think, "What's the use, I can't be like them," and we give up. Or, we see a person who is doing well in school without realizing that behind the scenes they are working very hard. Maybe you are down on yourself because you don't like something about you that you cannot change. There are many reasons people stop persevering, but I want to challenge you to change your thinking. Water will change the form of a rock by perseverance, not by power. You may feel that you don't have the power to change, but you do have the ability to persevere, even if it is just a little bit at a time.

Jesus, I pray for our community this week to press on toward the goal that you have for each person. Many are tired, some are discouraged, and some are overwhelmed. But through the strength we receive from your Spirit, help us to persevere. For those who are encouraged, I pray they will make themselves available to help others. Thank you for what you are doing in our community as we grow together in your grace. In Jesus name, Amen.

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Mon, April 9 | Chapel: Megan Netherton | Butterfield Chapel Balcony, 10 & 11:20am

Mon, April 9 | Pursuit: Choralons | Butterfield Chapel, 8:30pm

Wed, April 11 | Chapel: Ryan Gregg | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

Fri, April 13 | Chapel: Christian Dawson | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

Blessings,

Phil Rasmussen Dmin.

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Money Magazine Top 20 Most Affordable Private Colleges

