

The Marathon Of Maturity Plan—Week 1

You're greatest life's calling is to **become like Christ**.

1 John 2:5-6 – ⁵But whoever keeps his word, truly in him the love of God is made complete. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶The one who says he remains in him should walk just as he walked.
(CSB)

I. **Simplify** your life.

Hebrews 12:1 - Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us...(CSB)

II. There is no alternative to **patience**.

Hebrews 12:1 – ...Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, (CSB)
not be made perfect without us. (CSB)

III. God says 'no' when He has a greater **purpose**.

Psalm 57:2 – I call to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me. (CSB)

1 Peter 1:7 – These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world. (CSB)

IV. What to **do** when God says 'no'

A. Trust that God does everything in **goodness and love**.

Psalm 25:10 – All the Lord's ways show faithful love and truth to those who keep his covenant and decrees. (CSB)

B. When in pain, pray as **Jesus** prayed.

Mark 14:35-36 – ³⁵He went a little farther, fell to the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶And he said, "Abba, Father! All things are possible for you. Take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, not what I will, but what you will." (CSB)

C. Expect God to give His **grace** to handle His answer.

2 Corinthians 12:8-10 – ⁸Concerning this, I pleaded with the Lord three times that it would leave me. ⁹But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness.”

Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may reside in me. ¹⁰So I take pleasure in weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and in difficulties, for the sake of Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (CSB)

Thought For The Week:

To trust when He says, “**no**,” is a guaranteed way to **grow**.

Todd Hitchcock - Bethel Baptist Church October 28, 2018 Message Notes
