

## *God Rewards Those Who Persevere*



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Have you heard of Michael Phelps? He began swimming at a young age and quickly his entire life was focused on winning a gold medal in the Olympics. Michael had to go through many hard things as he kept focused on his goal, like practicing swimming when he would rather hang out with friends and eating lots of vegetables instead of ice cream. He was committed to his goal even when it was hard. At the end, he won eight gold medals at the 2008 Olympics!

For many of you, the goal in your life is much different and much more important. If you love God, you want to follow God in everything that you do for the rest of your life. To remain steadfast means to always follow God and stand firm, even when it is hard. If you love Jesus, you know that there are times when it is really hard to follow God. Trials can look different but may include: not laughing at an inappropriate joke, forgiving your brother or sister even when they have really hurt you, obeying your parents even when you do not feel like it.

Following God when things do not go your way can also be really hard. But God promises something incredible for those who love him until their last day of life. A gold medal is like a piece of lint compared to the reward God will give, the crown of life. This is not some shiny gold piece that you put on your head. Instead, it represents life with God forever in heaven.

Do you ever think about spending forever with God in heaven? How would that change the way you play with your friends, go to school, or listen to your parents. How would that change how you feel if something bad happens? Pray that God will help you stand firm for Him all the time.