

## Perseverance: Clinging to God

7/26/2020

**Perseverance:** It's a continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition. To **follow Jesus**, even when **He leads us** to and through harrowing times. We **cling to God** because **He holds us** firmly in His hands. John 10:28; Deut 33:27

1. In what ways are **we supposed to** persevere as **followers of Jesus**?

- *"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."* Rom 12:12
- *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."* Gal 6:9
- *"But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you."* 2 Tim 3:14
- Causes for experiencing doubt; (Helpful in understanding self and others)
  - 1) Personality causes—skeptical nature (DNA); hard to trust; socially reclusive
  - 2) Historical causes—traumatic experiences in the past: mental, physical, etc.
  - 3) Medical causes—Chemical imbalances; (doesn't define your identity)
  - 4) Physical causes—Unhealthy eating/lack of exercise—moodiness/depression
  - 5) Stressful causes—too many responsibilities + lack of sleep has a tremendous effect on the way we think and how we judge reality
  - 6) Theological causes—Believing promises God hasn't made—painlessness
  - 7) Sinful causes—Find temporary satisfaction—belief replaced with doubt
- As real and painful as the causes may be, they are not stronger than God's love, power, and truth to bring healing and restoration to the human soul.

2. What does **God do** to help us persevere?

- 1) He reassures you that **He is stronger** than any opposition, to protect us!  
*"I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand"* Jn 10: 28-29
- 2) He reassures you that not **even you** can deny yourself His blessings and callings. You can't un-earn something you never earned!  
*"For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable."* Ro 11:29
- 3) He reassures you that it doesn't **only** depend on you  
*"And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."* Phil 1:6

4) He reassure you that you've got a **living hope/ inheritance** coming—it's worth waiting for!

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 Pet.1: 3-5*

- He has given His promises, provision, and guidance-- **everything we need** to be motivated and encouraged to keep on keeping on. 2 Peter 1:3

3. Through what can **we cultivate** perseverance in our lives?

1) His Word—2 Tim 3: 16-17 – **Equip yourself with the right biblical tools**

*"Every scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the person dedicated to God may be capable and equipped for every good work."*

2) His Spirit—John 14: 26-27—**Learn from the right spirit—the Holy One!**

*"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and will cause you to remember everything I said to you."*

3) His People—Philippians 1: 3-5—**Partner with the right people**

*"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."*

4) His Mission—I Cor 15: 57-58—**Work for the right purpose**

*"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."*

1. How did God's truth speak to you this morning from His Word to your heart?
2. What adjustments do you need to make in your life as a result of this truth?
3. What steps do you need to take to develop #3 (1-4) above? Be specific.

## The Nature and Work of the H.O.L.Y. S.P.I.R.I.T.

**H**e is God!-- Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God... I Cor 2:10-12 (see 2 Peter 1:21; Ps 139:7, 8)

**Q: Have you surrendered your life to the Lordship of Christ? Are you serving two masters?**

**O**ffers gifts-- All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. 1 Cor 12: 4, 7,11

**Q: Do you know your spiritual gifts? How can you better use them for God's glory? Pray! Act!**

**L**eads us-- Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness. Luke 4:1... because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. Romans 8:14

**Q: Ask God to lead you in His direction. What keeps you from stepping out in faith? Give it to Him.**

**Y**our counselor-- When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. John 15:26 (see Jn 14:16-Comforter; Romans 5:5)

**Q: Do you regularly study the word of God to hear from the Spirit ?**

**S**ends us-- While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Ac 13:2; Sealed in Him w/the Holy Spirit Eph 1:13

**Q: Where is God leading you? Spend time in prayer and fasting seeking God's will for your life.**

**P**owers us-- But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 (by my Spirit Zech 4:6)

**Q: To whom are you sharing your faith with? How are you preaching the Gospel and making disciples?**

**I**nspires us-- The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life. Job 33:4 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness... Gen 1:26. (see Gen 1:2; Exodus 31:1-5)

**Q: What creative ministry does God want to do in your life? Ask him to "breathe" new life on you!**

**R**edeems us—sanctification-- When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment. Jn 16:8, being transformed into His image, from the Spirit 2 Cor 3:18; 5:17

**Q: Are there any specific areas of your life that are NOT submitted to the Holy Spirit? Confess them!**

**I**ndwells us-- Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? 1 Cor 3:16; Jn 14:17; Romans 8:16

**Q: Are there any bad habits in your life that are poisoning your body? Physical? Mental (media)?**

**T**eaches us--But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Jn 14:26 All Scripture 2Tim 3:16

**Q: Do you have a regular time to memorize Scripture? To meditate on it so He can remind you of it.**

**Reflection:** Spend time answering and/or discussing these questions.

1. How is God's truth speaking to your heart from the above as you meditate on it?
2. What adjustments do you need to make in your life as a result of this truth?
3. Ask God to help you as you work through these adjustments.
4. What steps do you need to take to implement the plan?
5. Who can you ask to help you be accountable to this action?