

PERSEVERANCE

A LOOK AT JAMES CHAPTER 1

HIGHLIGHT from last week's teaching:

1 Peter 2:19-21 (NASB)

19 For this [finds] favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer [for it] you patiently endure it, this [finds] favor with God. 21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

Demonstrating perseverance (endurance, steadfastness) through trials and difficulties invites the favor, or the **evident delight** of God.

PERSEVERANCE in the process of faith:

Meant to be activated by the testing of your faith

Incredibly crucial when we are contending for something through prayer

James 1:2-4 (NASB)

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have [its] perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Resistance and adversity are gifts presented to us to strengthen our faith and develop endurance

Romans 5:1-5 (NASB)

Tribulation produces perseverance; perseverance ⇨ proven character; proven character ⇨ hope

Hope does not disappoint because it is a concrete pledge of the very thing we are exercising our faith for. Hope brings confidence and assurance that the fruit of our faith will manifest.

Perseverance needs hope in order to thrive and grow stronger. Perseverance needs a goal to work towards.

Galatians 6:9 (NASB)

Do not lose heart in doing good

God knows what type of faith we need to produce results and see the fruit of our prayers - Matthew 17:19-20; Romans 12:3

And faith is not just a part of the process of God answering our prayers; it is the DNA of the process, the very seed of what we are hoping for. Hebrews 11:1-3, & 6 (NASB)

Perseverance is the heartsick longing and diligent seeking of God through the process.

Perseverance is the external elemental force being applied to the seed of faith. It creates a chain reaction that causes faith to come alive and manifest into fruit. This type of perseverance is given by God alone and is beyond human ability.

God allows and even introduces the right amount of resistance and pressure in our lives to set the stage for perseverance. This is where the testing of our faith begins and where we must ask for perseverance.

(James 1:5) Ask the Lord for wisdom concerning the process

(1 Peter 4:12-13) The Father desires to reveal His glory to and through us during this process and this is where hope is born. Colossians 1:27

Godly perseverance needs a godly mindset to fuel it; we have been given the mind of Christ to accomplish this (1 Corinthians 2:9-16)

This is where we must focus our attention on the **EXAMPLE** of Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-3)

Therefore if Jesus did it, so can we!

James 1:12 (NASB)

12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which [the Lord] has promised to those who love Him.

SUMMARY: Perseverance is all about TRANSFORMATION

The fruit produced through this transformative process brings glory to Him as the Master Vinedresser. He therefore has a vested interest in the process and His approach is very intentional. Asking for wisdom during the testing of our faith will open the door for us to see the Father's bigger picture. It will bring clarity to the hope we should focus on in the Spirit. The Father's goal is to yield the best possible outcome for us and His kingdom. He wants us to be perfect and complete (James 1:2-4). Ultimately this transformative process is what is actually taking place in us concerning our eternal destiny as the fruit of Jesus' perseverance (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE REFERENCES TO STUDY CONCERNING PERSEVERANCE:

Romans 15:4

1 Corinthians 15:58

Psalms 112:7

2 Peter 1:5-8

2 Thessalonians 3:5

Philippians 4:13

Deuteronomy 31:8

Romans 8:25

Colossians 1:9-11

Psalms 37:24