

## Overview:

Perseverance is defined as “the steady persistence in a course of action or purpose, especially in spite of difficulties, obstacles, or discouragement.” As Christians, we are asked to imitate Jesus, who was the ultimate example of this godly trait. Observing how Jesus displayed steadfast dedication, determination and endurance through extreme difficulties, will help us overcome the challenges we face in this life. In this message, we’ll look at three keys to persevering like Jesus.

Three keys to persevering like Jesus in suffering:

### I. What we LEARN from the suffering of Jesus

1. Jesus EXPERIENCED unbelievable suffering.
  - a. We learn to persevere by imitating Jesus. (Heb. 12:1-3).
    - i. Endured abuse of sinful men
    - ii. Endured shame of the Cross
2. Jesus joyfully EMBRACED his suffering (didn’t have to).
  - a. He could have easily bailed on suffering. (Matt. 26:53)
3. Jesus EMPATHIZES with our suffering.
  - a. He knows how much we can **bear**. (Heb. 4:15)
    - i. Our suffering is not a mistake.
    - ii. **He is in control**-He can rescue us if needed. (2 Pet 2:9)
  - b. He knows we will be **rewarded**. (Heb. 10:32-35)

### II. Why we should TRUST Jesus in our suffering

1. Suffering KEEPS us from being unproductive. (2 Pet. 1:5-8)
  - a. Suffering builds character. (Rom. 5:3-4)

**QT: Benjamin Disraeli**, British politician and writer - “Through perseverance many people win success out of what seemed destined to be certain failure.”

2. Suffering HELPS us mature. (James 1:2-4)
  - a. ONLY testing makes us strong (in faith).
3. Suffering REFINES our faith. (1 Pet. 1:6-7)
  - a. Trials don’t AUTOMATICALLY make us stronger.
  - b. Must get **back up** after knocked down! **Don’t quit**.
 

**QT: Henry Ford**, founder of Ford Motor Company – “Failure is only the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently.”

### III. How we should RESPOND to our own suffering

1. We should RELY on God. (Heb. 11:26-27)
  - a. Moses’ FAITH kept him going.
    - i. **Run “TO” God, not “AWAY” from God.**

**QT: Walter Elliot**, Scottish politician - “Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after the other.”

2. We should REVERE the Word. (Matt. 7:24)
  - a. Prepares us for the storms of life (foundation).
    - i. **“Listen to the WORD, not the WORLD!”**
3. We should REMEMBER the reward. (James 1:12)
  - a. We are “blessed” when we persevere.

### Conclusion:

As Christians, we need to grow in perseverance. We must strive to imitate Jesus - the ultimate example of persevering through suffering. Jesus displayed steadfast dedication, determination and endurance through extreme difficulties. By imitating Him, we will grow in godly character, maturity and become productive servants of Christ.

## Supporting Material:

### Important Verses:

(all verses NIV)

#### Hebrews 12:1-3

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

#### Matthew 26:53

"Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"

#### Hebrews 4:15

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin."

#### 2 Peter 2:9

"If this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment."

#### Revelation 2:10

10 "Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown."

#### Hebrews 10:32-35

"Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. 33 Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. 34 You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. 35 So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded."

#### 2 Peter 1:5-8

"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

#### Romans 5:3-4

"Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4

perseverance, character; and character, hope."

#### James 1:2-4

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

#### 1 Peter 1:6-7

"In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

#### Hebrews 11:26-27

"He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. 27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible."

#### Matthew 7:24

"Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."

#### James 1:12

"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him."

### Quotes:

"Perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did."

-**Newt Gingrich**, American politician, historian, and author

"Through perseverance many people win success out of what seemed destined to be certain failure."

-**Benjamin Disraeli**, British politician and writer

"It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer."

-**Albert Einstein**, physicist and developer of the theory of relativity

"Failure is only the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently."

-**Henry Ford**, founder of Ford Motor Company

"Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after the other."

-**Walter Elliot**, Scottish politician

"Courage is not having the strength to go on; it is going on when you don't have the strength."

-**Theodore Roosevelt**, 26th President of the United States

### Resources:

**PIPER, John, *The Roots of Endurance: Invincible Perseverance in the Lives of John Newton, Charles Simeon, and William Wilberforce***, Crossway, Publication Date: 2006, ISBN: 1581348142

**LEWIS, C.S., *A Grief Observed***, Harper One: 1 edition (June 2, 2009), Publication Date: June 9, 2009, Sold by: HarperCollins Publishers, Language: English, ASIN: B002BXH5WU

**SITZER, Gerald, *A Grace Disguised: How the Soul Grows Through Loss***, Zondervan (February 1, 1998), Language: English, ISBN-10: 0310219310

**PACKER, J.I., *A Grief Sanctified: Through Sorrow to Eternal Hope***, Crossway (September 24, 2002), Language: English, ISBN-10: 1581344406

**GUTHRIE, Nancy, *Hearing Jesus Speak Into Your Sorrow***, Tyndale Momentum (June 29, 2009), Publication Date: June 29, 2009, Sold by: Amazon.com Services LLC, Language: English, ASIN: B002DYMBC

**WRIGHT, Norman, *Helping Those in Grief: A Guide to Help You Care for Others***, Bethany House Publishers (August 5, 2011), Language: English, ISBN-10: 076421649X

**PLYLE, Donna, *Perseverance: Praying Through Life's Challenges***, Concordia Publishing House, Publication Date: 2019, ISBN: 075866057X

### Discussion Questions:

1. Describe some of the greatest fears you face right now. In what way does Jesus model perseverance for you in these situations?
2. Of the three "responses" to difficulties (Point #3), which is the hardest for you to apply? What can you do differently this week to change that?