

The Persistence of a Biblical Faith

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Introduction: Most of the great men of history became great because of persistence.

A. What is persistence?

1. There are many synonyms that describe persistence: perseverance, tenacity, pertinacity. “It means steadfast singleness of purpose, as in the pursuit of a goal, despite difficulties or obstacles. Perseverance suggests praiseworthy and enduring patience.” - The American Heritage Dictionary
2. Still for persistence to have value, it must have an object. (Ex. Some are persistent in sin, not obeying the gospel, etc.)

B. The greatest good done in the kingdom of God are by men who are persistent, not the most talented.

1. I have know many who had a “time” where they were on fire and accomplished much. I have also know others who simply did all they could with what they had over their lifetime. Who did the work of the Lord?
2. We have not learned basic Christianity until we develop this long view of persistence. **(2 Pet 1:5-11)**
3. How many enter marriage with a long term attitude?

I. Why Persistence has a Value

A. It does not quit. **(1 Cor 15:58)**

“Never give in! Never give in! Never! Never! Never! Never! In anything great or small, large or petty—never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense.”

- Sir Winston Churchill

B. It has more value than ability. **(Matt 25:28-29)**

1. This does not eliminate ability. The persistent however will develop more ability.

“Perseverance can do anything which genius can do, and very many things which it cannot.”

“Genius, that power that dazzles mortal eyes, Is oft but perseverance in disguise.”

C. It is a great teacher. **(Rom 5:3-5)**

D. It gets things done. **(2 Cor 9:8)**

E. God has commanded it. **(Rev 2:10)**

II. The Importance of Persistence in the Unseen Realm

A. Jesus was persistent in going to the cross. **(Heb 12:1-2)**

1. I believe that he saw you and me and His love for us kept Him on the cross.
2. Can you and I see the finish line?

B. God is persistent in seeking sinners. **(2 Pet 3:9; 1 Tim 2:3-4)**

1. If we could only see ourselves as God sees us.
2. Satan fears that you might see the love of God.

C. Satan is persistent in seeking our destruction. **(1 Pet 5:8-9; Eph 4:26-27)**

1. Satan already has the world. Who is left?

2. Can a Christian take a lax view of the assemblies and be serious about Satan?

D. Angels know the consequences of failing in their persistence. **(Jude 6)**

III. Parables and Examples that Teach the Value of Persistence

A. The Parable of the unjust judge. **(Luke 18:1-8)**

1. Are we diligent in our prayers?

2. Our neglect of worship is a sign of a lack of faith.

B. The Parable of the talents. **(Matt 25:14-30)**

C. The Syro-Phoenician Woman. **(Matt 15:22-28; Mark 7:26-30)**

1. Do we use what others have done as a reason for quitting?

2. If you use this excuse at the judgment, this woman will rise as an example for your condemnation.

IV. How to Build Persistence in Our Lives

A. Know who you want to go to. **(2 Tim 1:12)**

1. Do you really know God?

2. What does the finish line look like for you?

B. Become a “traditional” Christian. **(2 Tim 1:13-14)**

1. There is a place to stand that can rightly be called the “old paths.” **(Jer 6:16)**

2. God wishes to produce stability by being rooted and grounded in His word. Do you know where to stand?

C. Do not be afraid to start. **(Rev 21:8)**

“Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs even though checkered by failures, than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much because they live in the gray twilight that knows not victory or defeat.”

D. Always get back up after being knocked down. **(2 Cor 6:8-10)**

"It's not whether you get knocked down. It's whether you get up again." -- Vince Lombardi,

E. Be optimistic in the Lord's work. **(Phil 4:4)**

1. Fear and pessimism destroy more opportunities that we realize.

2. Real faith and love is optimistic!

“Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off the goal.”

F. Be willing to pay the price. **(Rev 3:10-13)**

1. It is not easy to stand when relationships of men become your goal. Men often change but God does not!

2. If you have no reason to believe then how can you stand?

Death and sorrow will be the companions of our journey; hardship our garment; constancy and valor our only shield. We must be united, we must be undaunted, we must be inflexible. -- Sir Winston Churchill, 1940

What we obtain too easy, we value too lightly; it is the cost that gives value.

G. Do not stop because of unjust criticism. **(3 John 10)**

If you stop every time a dog barks, your road will never end. - Arabian Proverb

H. Do not accept quitting as an option.

1. This is an act of the will! **(John 6:66-68)**

2. Quitters lose everything that they have work on when they quit. (**Heb 10:35-36**)
Conclusion: Let you life be one of effort and fruits for the Lord.