

Tips for Persevering - James 1

July 20, 2017

James 1:12-16 NASB

12 **Blessed is a man who perseveres** (*hypomenō - to remain, abide, bear bravely and calmly, not recede or flee*) **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.**

- ***Approval from God in the trial is dependent upon your response to the trial; how you persevere.***
- ***We are not saved by works or performance, but by grace through faith alone.***
- ***Yet God does test our faith, to prove it's genuineness. We're not saved by works but we can't be saved without works.***

James 2:17 NASB

"Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself."

1 Peter 1:6-8 NASB

6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,

7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.

To persevere, focus on these principles:

- ***You are exactly where God wants you. The circumstances of your life are not mistakes or errors, not even the consequences.***

Psalm 37:23 NASB

23 The steps of a man are established by the LORD, And He delights in his way.

NLT - *"He delights in every detail of their lives."*

2 Samuel 12:22 NASB

22 He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who knows, the LORD may be gracious to me, that the child may live.'"

- ***Circumstances and this earth life will never make you happy; as pilgrims and strangers, set your expectations accordingly. Only God's presence satisfies with great joy.***

Philippians 4:11 NASB

11 "...I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am."

Psalms 16:11 NASB

11 "In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever."

- **Circumstances will never make you fail. It's your response to the circumstances that will make you fail.**

Hebrews 12:5 KJV

5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, **despise** (oligōreō - disesteem, have little regard for) **not** thou the chastening of the Lord, nor **faint** (eklyō - grow weary, weak, exhaustion, fainthearted, despondent) when thou art rebuked of him:

Hebrews 3:8 NASB

8 Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, as in the day of trial in the wilderness.

- **Never compare your circumstances, trials or life to someone else's; it only breeds confusion and discontentment.**

John 21:21-22 NASB

21 So Peter seeing him said to Jesus, "Lord, and what about this man?"

22 Jesus said to him, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!"

- **Leave the future and timing to God.**

Acts 1:6-8 ESV

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Matthew 6:34 ESV

34 "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

- **Surrender to the yoke of Jesus, and He'll make the most difficult trials easy to bear.**

Matthew 11:28-30 NASB

28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

30 "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."