

## The Discipline of Perseverance

- *One of the greatest problems that can plague a believer is a lack of consistency and perseverance. Many of the reasons that we fail to experience victory and freedom in our lives is because of a lack of consistency and perseverance.*
- *Inconsistency and a lack of perseverance may not be the root of our problems because the source of our problems can be found in many different areas, however, perseverance is an important key for us to experience victory and freedom.*

### Romans 5:3 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;

- *If someone says they have limited perseverance or can only persevere for a limited time what they are really saying is that they do not have perseverance at all. The very definition of perseverance means, “to remain, endure, to last, to be steadfast.”*

### Romans 5:3 (The Message)

<sup>3</sup>There's more to come: We continue to shout our praise even when we're hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us,

- *For us to develop perseverance we need to be passionate about the things of God.*
- *Trials are actually an important component for us to develop both perseverance and a passion for God.*

### Psalms 34:8 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup>Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

### Proverbs 27:7 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup>A satisfied soul loathes the honeycomb, But to a hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.

### 1 Thessalonians 1:3 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup>remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,

- *Our endurance and perseverance is inspired by our hope in the Lord Jesus Christ.*

## 2 Corinthians 7:11 (The Message)

<sup>11</sup>And now, isn't it wonderful all the ways in which this distress has goaded you closer to God? You're more alive, more concerned, more sensitive, more reverent, more human, more passionate, more responsible. Looked at from any angle, you've come out of this with purity of heart.

- *If we respond to God through trials, our relationship and faith in God actually becomes more real and alive!*

## Galatians 5:1 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

- *Christians who give up and give into their temptations do not persevere because it is easier to give into the temptation than to battle through it to find God's grace.*
- *We need to be passionate to find the freedom which Christ has purchased for us. Then we need to be passionate and stand firm in that freedom.*
- *The Greek word προσκαρτερέω (proskartereō) means, "continue, to be devoted to, to adhere to one, to be steadfastly attentive unto, to give unrelenting care to a thing, to continue all the time in a place, to persevere and not to faint, to be in constant readiness."*
- *προσκαρτερέω (proskartereō) comes from two Greek words. Προ which means, "to move towards something or forward" and καρτερέω which means, "to be steadfast." Thus the two words combined, προσκαρτερέω (proskartereō), speaks about "moving forward in steadfastness."*
- *προσκαρτερέω proskartereō is used ten times in the New Testament and four of those times it is used in the Book of Acts to describe the early church.*
- *The early church knew how to continue steadfast in the Lord and that is why they were unstoppable! We as Christians are to develop those same characteristics of steadfastness.*

## Acts 1:14 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup>These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

- *1. The early church persevered and was steadfast in prayer.*

## Acts 1:14 (Wuest)

<sup>14</sup> These all continued to give their persistent attention with absolute unanimity to prayer which was characterized by its definiteness of purpose, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus and with his brethren.

- *For us to pray effectively our prayers must be filled with:*
- *Faith - a resolve that God is faithful and hears our prayers*
- *Consistency - not just when we are in the mood or when it is convenient.*
- *Purpose - (we need to direct our prayers towards a definite goal).*

Acts 2:42 (NKJV)

<sup>42</sup>And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

- *2. The early church persevered and was steadfast in the apostles' doctrine.*

Acts 2:42 (The Message)

<sup>42</sup>They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.

- *3. The early church persevered and was steadfast in fellowship.*

Acts 2:46 (NKJV)

<sup>46</sup>So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

- *4. The early church persevered and was steadfast to maintain the unity of the Body of Christ.*

Acts 6:1–4 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup>Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.

<sup>2</sup>Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;

<sup>4</sup>but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

- *5. The early church persevered and was steadfast in the purposes which God had given each one.*
- *The apostles knew what God had called them to do and they were not going to be distracted, "but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."*

**1 Corinthians 12:11–12 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup>But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

<sup>12</sup>For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.

**Ephesians 4:11–16 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup>And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

<sup>12</sup>for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

<sup>13</sup>till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

<sup>14</sup>that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

<sup>15</sup>but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

<sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.