

“Persevere” James 5:7-12

Our modern culture of impatience and instant gratification is the least able to develop perseverance in us than any other culture in history. However, in real life perseverance is crucial to our success in relationships, marriage, parenting spiritual maturity, physical fitness, career advancement, and in dealing with the normal difficulties of life. Our Christian faith gives us incomparable resources for the development of perseverance!

What is Perseverance?

“Patience” 4xs = Gr. long suffering or to suffer long. vv7,8,10

“Steadfastness” 2xs = Gr. to hyper-stand or to stand strong. v11

Definition: Ability to graciously suffer hardship without blowing up or giving up.

Opposite: irritability, self-pity, grumbling, or complaining, resentment toward God and/or others.

Counterfeit: Stoicism (Strong outside but stressed inside) or

Indifference (Couldn't care less).

When Do We Need It?

- 1) When Circumstances are Uncontrollable.
v7 “See how the farmer waits...”
- 2) When People are Unbearable.
v10 “...take the Prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.”
- 3) When Problems are Unexplainable.
v11 “You have heard of the steadfastness of Job...”

How Do We Get It? v8 “Establish your hearts...”

- 1) Process your disappointments through prayer. (Book of Psalms)
v11b You have heard of the steadfastness of Job... Ps55:22

- 2) Stop assuming you know how things should go.
James 4:13-14a; v11; v12; Job 13:15, 42:5
- 3) Cooperate with God's work to grow you.
James 1:2-4; Rom5:3-5; Job 23:8-10
- 4) Remember Christ's patience for you and presence with you.
v11; Heb12:2; Rom5:8; Lament. 3:22-23; Ps34:18
- 5) Long for His coming and to be with Him forever.
Vv7, 8, 9; 2Cor4:16-18

Growing Notes

- 1) Why do you think our modern culture of impatience and instant gratification is the least able to develop perseverance in us than any other culture in history? What kind of experiences test your perseverance? What good things in life are worth persevering for?
- 2) Read James 5:7-12. What stands out to you from this text? What do we need to do to wait for the Lord's return (v7)? Why and how should we persevere (v8)? What does impatience look like (v9)? Who are good examples of perseverance and why (vv10-11)? How will God help us with our perseverance (v11)?
- 3) What is perseverance? What is the opposite? What is the counterfeit? Why do we need to know the difference? When do we need perseverance? Which one do you struggle with the most (uncontrollable circumstances or unbearable people or unexplainable problems)?
- 4) Review the five points and cross references of how to get perseverance. Which one(s) are most convicting? Which one(s) are most comforting? What is God speaking to you through this study? In what area of your life do you need more perseverance? What are some next steps you can begin to take to be a person of greater perseverance? Pray.