

# Perseverance

Peter said to add perseverance to our faith, virtue, knowledge and self-control (2 Pet. 1:5, 6). Perseverance is steadfastness, constancy, endurance and an abiding under. The idea is to stick with it, even in the most difficult times. Of course, a Christian will face trials and afflictions that require perseverance to get through.

The same Greek word for perseverance, *hupomone*, is translated in other passages as "patience." We are to run the race with patience (Heb. 12:1). Without it, we will not finish--we will not be saved. However, we have the promise from God that He "will render to each one according to his deeds": eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality" (Rom. 2:6-7). If we fall down, we need to get back up and keep running--to "win" (cf. 1 Cor. 9:24).

We build our perseverance by going through tribulations. Paul wrote, "tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope" (Rom. 5:3, 4). One trial builds us and gives greater strength so we may face the next one. In part, this is how we mature in the Lord. He allows us to face difficulties and temptations now in order to prepare us for greater work in the future. Therefore, "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing" (Jas. 1:2-4).

Christians need perseverance in every facet of their lives, including marriage. Husbands and wives must constantly work on their marriage if it is going to work. They must respect God's law governing marriage (Matt. 19:9; Eph. 5:22-33; etc.). A steadfastness is especially needed for the one who is married to an unbeliever. The Christian must keep the faith, not only for his or her sake, but also for the sake of the mate (cf. 1 Pet. 3:1-5).

When we add perseverance to faith, virtue, knowledge and self-control, we will be blessed. It will improve our lives before God and with man. Therefore, let us persevere through the race set before us.

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