



Family Christian Center

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CLASS NAME: Prep for Marriage – Marriage Rockstars | Lesson 1: You Are My Rock!

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“You Are My Rock!”

Whom I can depend on most!

Psalm 62 1

My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

We learned in our first class, through the in-class activity “**You’re My Rock**”, what your individual definitions are of what it means to be the “**rock**” for someone you are in a relationship with and equally what it feels like to be supported by the “**rock**” of that very same relationship. However, the adage, “**you are my rock**” is derived from the Bible in which our **true** rock of support is God. Yes, it’s a powerful gift from God to be able to depend on loved ones and share that same support in return. However, **HE** alone is **the rock of our salvation**, an impenetrable fortress that remains a constant refuge to us in the middle of a storm. Ensuring we will **not be shaken** nor will ever be moved when the enemy comes in like a flood. To be clear, **God is the standard** and the definition of **rock** dependency.

Isaiah 59:19

New King James Version

¹⁹ So shall they fear

The name of the Lord from the west,

And His glory from the rising of the sun;

When the enemy comes in like a flood,

The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.

It is a beautiful thing to know you have a friend in Him. To know that **God is your rock** is to recognize His true nature, which is, he never changes, never shifts, is strong, dependable, and always there to protect us from the troubles of this world. How much better is it knowing the King of kings and the Lord of lords has your back as well? Amazing, right!? In fact, Jesus felt that same support and relied on Simon Peter and called him the “**rock**” of the church.

Matthew 16:13-18

New International Version

Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “**Who do people say the Son of Man is?**”

14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 “**But what about you?**” he asked. “**Who do you say I am?**”

16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter,[a] and on this **rock**, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades[b] will not overcome it.

Solid as a Rock!

Wow! What a compliment it must have been for Peter to hear that he would become the “**rock**” which Jesus would build his church upon. Keep in mind, before this moment, Peter was discerning the voice of the Lord, and through his consultation, it was revealed to Peter, from God above, who Jesus **really** was. Because Peter **believed**, he was blessed to become a new creature in Christ with a new heart towards loving the Lord, thus, Jesus renamed him that day for his new walk with God! Belief is the first criterion, in becoming solid as rock the cornerstone of becoming one of Heaven’s Marriage Rockstars!

Ezekiel 36:26

New International Version

²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

Understanding who Jesus was and His purpose on earth was essential to saving the saints who are the church (or the bride) of Jesus. Remember, Jesus loved the Church so much that he died for her, so that we may have everlasting life.

John 3:16-17

New King James Version

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Cornerstone Character

Peter was the cornerstone of the church which means; ***a stone that forms the base of a corner of a building, joining two walls***. Think about this, Peter's original name was Simon Bar-Jonah, but Jesus renamed Simon to Peter on that day establishing Jesus' relationship with the Church, thus connecting the two. Peter means, in Greek "**Petros**" which translates to "**rock or stone**" and was originally derived from the Aramaic translation **Kefa** which also means "**rock or stone**". Peter was most certainly Jesus's rock and the foundation upon which the church was built in Heaven and on earth.

John 14:12

King James Version

12 **Verily, verily**, I say unto you, He that **believeth on me**, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Belief, in whom Jesus is, was a key characteristic of someone who has a **cornerstone** or **rock-solid** character. Couples and friends, ponder that for a moment. How good does it feel when someone is confident in the love they feel for you? Good...right? To know that they see you; they understand you; they believe in you. How does that make you feel? Then ask yourself, how it makes God feel when you believe in Him.

Ask silently, yourself these questions:

- *Do you believe in God? Is belief in God a cornerstone of your current relationship/marriage?*
- *Do you believe he will save you in the middle of a storm?*
- *If not, when did you stop believing in Him? What life event took your faith away from God (**death, illness, betrayal, abandonment**)?*
- *More importantly, does your mate believe in God?*
- *Is belief in God a cornerstone of your relationship?*
- *Are you confident? Would you bet your life on it?*

Rock Hall of Fame!

Think of the confidence Peter had when he proclaimed who Jesus was. Like a rock, he was immovable in his stance. He wasn't shaken, he wasn't insecure...No, Peter **knew** who Jesus was and he didn't flinch when asked to identify a "**good thing**" in the Lord. Ladies and gentlemen, but especially women, make sure the person you are with recognizes "**the good thing**" in you. That they can easily identify your innermost qualities and do not need confirmation from others to see your value. **They just know a good thing we they see it.**

Proverbs 18:22

New King James Version

22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing,
And obtains favor from the Lord.

Peter, in our opinion, just knew the greatness of God. In a sense, Peter was Jesus's best man at the wedding banquet and by being the greatest wingman of all time, helped establish Jesus's connection to his bride, the church. But it was Jesus who knew on sight that the Church was "**marriage material**".

Their everlasting love is the standard of love and sacrifice both in Heaven and on Earth. When you receive an invitation to this wedding—the wedding rock hall of fame, we hope you RSVP, we hope you put on the correct heavenly attire, that you really read the invitation, and know what gifts to bring and RSVP for the guests in your family you intend to bring along with you. **The main thing is don't come empty-handed; come with praise!**

Ain't No Rock Going to Cry in My Place!

In the book of Luke, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey which in Biblical times was a triumphal entry. The people of Jerusalem exclaimed with joy, "Hosannah!" as Jesus entered the large crowds on the street, as the "**king who comes in the name of the Lord**" (Luke 19:38). However, when the Pharisees saw the large crowd of people praising Jesus as the Messiah, the Pharisees told Jesus "**Teacher, rebuke your disciples!**", believing that Jesus was acting in blasphemy and encouraging the praises of the people. However, as we know Jesus is the king who came in the name of the Lord. We love Jesus' response to the Pharisee's demand:

Luke 19:40

Amplified Bible

⁴⁰ Jesus replied, "I tell you, if these [people] keep silent, **the stones will cry out** [in praise]!"

In all things, and in all situations, praise God! Don't allow a rock to cry in your place! Don't only praise him when you get engaged or on your wedding day but thank God, when you are fighting in your marriage, when your mortgage is late, when your family gets on your nerves; when your kids are out of control when your enemies are gloating about you, when you lose your job, or when the world is against you because it is only for a season within your marriage.

To be married you must be battle-tested and many of you are already battle tested. Some of the attendees of this class have gone through unsurmountable loss but have stayed in sorrow and lingered too long in the disappointment of the loss, the rejection, or the abandonment. God wants you to live to fight another day for your future and your marriage. Because greater fights come the moment you say, "I do" and you must lean on the rock of hope and confidence that only God can give you. His grace is all we need. "**My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness**" (2 Corinthians 12:9) In our weakness, his strength is resounding, and is made strong for us. So, please remember after weeping, joy comes in the morning!

Psalms 30:1-5

New International Version

Psalms 30^[a]

A psalm. A song. For the dedication of the temple.^[b] Of David.

¹ I will exalt you, Lord,
for you lifted me out of the depths
and did not let my enemies gloat over me.

- ² Lord my God, I called to you for help,
and you healed me.
- ³ You, Lord, brought me up from the realm of the dead;
you spared me from going down to the pit.
- ⁴ Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful people;
praise his holy name.
- ⁵ For his anger lasts only a moment,
but his favor lasts a lifetime;
**weeping may stay for the night,
but rejoicing comes in the morning.**

To be someone's foundation is not an easy task nor is it easy to be someone's rock consistently, especially in marriage. That is why your marriage needs God. It can't survive without Him and honestly, why would you want it to? Individuals seeking marriage must understand what **rock character** looks like, feels like, and acts like in a mate before ever saying the words, "**I do**".

I's Married Now!

We've seen it countless times over the many years of teaching Prep for Marriage. Couples are so excited about marriage, that they forget to look for rock character. Instantly, in some cases, after exchanging, "I do's" they forget about God, not realizing that after marriage is when you need God the most. Yes, you rocked with God through the engagement ring, the engagement party, the wedding reception, and the wedding photos...the real question is, "**Does God rock with you?**"

Is the one you can depend on everyone but God? Ouch! Didn't know we were going there, did you? However, when individuals and couples say the idiom, "you are my rock", they are often referring to dependability in uncertain things in the natural what about the supernatural? Why are we weighing the temporary over the everlasting? Is the rock on your finger more important than the rock in Heaven?

Did You See the Rock on Her Finger!?

The truth is, in modern-day society, the rock or the diamond that is placed on the wedding ring seems to get more praise in comparison to the marriage itself. The wedding day cost has risen to such exuberant amounts, that many millennials and Gen Z's are turning away from marriage and those that do marry are spending outrageous amounts just to have the "coveted" wedding ring.

The wedding ring and all its ornate adorning still do not ensure marriage security or longevity. The pursuit of an engagement ring without understanding the *real* meaning of the covenant behind the ring has caused many women and men to enter ill-fitted matches just to say, "He put a ring on it! Or "I put a ring on it!"

Dangling "Carats" Over Your Head

One trend that we have seen that affects both genders but impacts women at a greater level is a term we coined "**engagement layaway**". It is when a man that is dating a woman is essentially "*dangling carats (diamonds rings, a proposal, promise rings or an engagement ring) over the head of a mate.*"

One dictionary defines the idiom of "**dangling carrots over someone one else**" as "*offering a positive consequence or incentive to a person in exchange for them taking an action which they are not internally motivated to take for themselves.*" **Meaning, some individuals may accept moving in with a mate, sharing finances with a mate, or having children before marriage something they would normally not accept over the lure of marriage.** In our example this means, making promises of marriage without an engagement ring or giving a promise ring but never committing to a wedding date. Furthermore, after the 3-year mark of engagement (outside of pursuing a higher education degree or starting to date at a young age (18-21) one mate becomes tired of waiting for an engagement. So typically, the male suitor, only to appease his mate short-term will extend the marriage time frame by proposing thus extending the relationship another 3-5 years after the initial 2-3 years of dating, without marriage. This essentially extends the shelf life of the woman they are dating and gives them more time to, in some instances sow their royal oats.

- ***Would you be surprised to know, that in our experience, that after 5, 10, or even 15+ years of dating the man in the relationship will break up with his would-be-fiancée only to marry someone else 6 months later?***

Engagement Layaway keeps one person from moving forward with anyone else while typically the man is able to have their cake and eat too! As marital instructors, we have unfortunately seen this issue happen time and time again. Though some extended engagement relationships end in marriage. However, often, after saying, "I do" they do not remain married unless they have a strong spiritual foundation. Please keep in mind, we have seen this occur in both men and women however typically women tend to stay on **Engagement Layaway** for far too many years only to give up their best years to someone who didn't appreciate them in the first place.

My Precious, Precious*

If you are seeking marriage this may be hard to hear but your value system is called into question by God before marriage. Why? To check your motives.

James 4:3 Amplified Bible

³ You ask [God for something] and do not receive it, because you ask ^(a)with wrong motives [out of selfishness or with an unrighteous agenda], so that [when you get what you want] you may spend it on your [hedonistic] desires.

Idol Minds

In our experience, of mentoring and counseling over 2500 couples those that tend to have an “unnatural” value of engagement more than the love of God tend to sell themselves short for an engagement ring. Rather than seeing the value in the “big picture” of marriage and not simply living in the moment, they accept less in the hopes of receiving more later. This is not intended to condemn those found in this predicament but to bring a spirit of conviction into your life. Marriage is intended to make you and your fiancé/fiancée better. The Bible calls for us to be fruitful and multiply in marriage, but let’s be clear we aren’t just talking about making babies. God wants us to be an example for others through our marriage. The Bible calls us to be imitators of Christ, not imitators on the wedding day. If this applies, consider this silently to yourselves:

- *If the thoughts of marriage turn into fantasizing thus pulling you farther and farther away from God, marriage in this season may not be best for you.*

Furthermore, if the lure of engagement has a stronger draw to you, than seeking a relationship with the Lord then, unfortunately, your desires fall into idol worship. We encourage you if you feel you are in this head space, to cast down imaginations and anything held above the knowledge of whom we all know God to be. The one and only true King worthy of praise!

2 Corinthians 10:5

King James Version

⁵ Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

How Precious is the Cost?

The average cost of a “**precious**” wedding ring has changed from generation to generation. At one point, braided tweed threaded together in a circle was enough in Egyptian times to signify marriage. Oh my! How things have changed! How many men would receive a ‘**yes**’ to a grass or straw-bound ring in society today? Based on our experiences, not many.

However, don’t misunderstand, ladies are not at fault alone in this. No, not all! This is not a one-sided desire anymore; men **also** have skin in the game when it comes to the cost and look of an engagement ring. With many men sporting more diamonds like celebrities or music artists, causing diamonds not only be a girl’s best friend but a man’s new best friend. In return, many men are asking for a show of devotion in the form of diamonds from their intended spouses. Today the cost of the ring is strongly associated with a man’s ability to provide. In a way, the ring has become a silent status symbol to men, announcing to *other* men, “**she’s taken!**”

Considering this, some archeologists believe the first wedding rings can be traced to a Roman custom in which wives wore rings attached to small keys, indicating that the wife’s responsibility is over the household and that upon betrothal the wife now belonged to her husband. At that time, treating women as property was the norm. However, giving the ring as a pseudo-cattle brand rather than a tribute of love devalues the real meaning of engagement rings. Don’t you think?

- **Ladies and Gentlemen is that love?**
- **Do believe the exchanging of rings in this manner exemplifies Christ’s love for the church?**

Did you know that marriage is the first ordained relationship created by God? The wedding ring is a beautiful gift to give to a bride, but there is no greater gift than eternal life! In **Genesis 2:17**, God told Adam and Eve if they ate from the *Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil* that they would die. The serpent came to Eve and Adam in the garden and told them that they *would not* die and that they

would become like God instead (**Genesis 3:4-5**) and they believed him and ate of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil! The punishment was death. The curse of death was the judgment applied to Adam and Eve and all their descendants including us, from that day forward. However, our God always provides a way of escape from our sinful nature. Our escape is JESUS! ***Yes, Jesus came to reverse the curse!***

Galatians 3:13

New International Version

¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.

The moment Jesus sacrificed himself on the cross he broke the curse of death from our lives to give each one of us an opportunity to receive eternal life in Heaven.

Scripture teaches us in John 11:24-26:

John 11:24-26

New International Version

²⁵ Jesus said to her, **"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.** Do you believe this?"

Remember, we all have a choice to believe. Our God is such a gentleman that he will always ask for your permission before he moves forward in covenant with you. Husbands are to do the same before entering the same "right" of passage and ask permission from his earthly bride. ***Never forget, the true meaning of marriage is to exemplify Christ's love for the church.*** Did you know we are the church?

1 Corinthians 3:9

King James Version

⁹ For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's **husbandry**, ye are God's **building**

Yes, and Jesus is the bridegroom, and the church (us) is His bride. And because Christ loved the church so much, he gave himself up for her. In marriage, husbands are called to love their wives in this same way. Men, are you willing to die for your wife? That is the **real** meaning behind the covenant of a wedding ring. When you exchange vows with your (future) wife, you are saying:

- ***"I will sacrifice myself for you."***
- ***"I will protect you."***
- ***"I will die for you...yet live for you".***

Men don't take the vow of marriage if this is something you can't commit to doing. If you can't be bound to the vows of this covenant, then you are **not** ready for marriage.

Ephesians 5:25

New International Version

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

The Meaning Behind the Ring

What is a Signet Ring?

In biblical times, an engagement ring or a wedding ring was not explicitly described in the Bible. However, many rings were mentioned to describe the status and the importance of the individual receiving it. For instance, the **signet ring** is the earliest example of a ring mentioned in the Bible.

Luke 15:22

Amplified Bible

²² But the father said to his servants, 'Quickly bring out the best robe [for the guest of honor] and put it on him; and give him a **ring for his hand**, and sandals for his feet.

In Luke 15:22, in the parable of the Prodigal son, who squandered his father's inheritance. The prodigal son returned to his father's house with self-disdain for himself believing that he was no

longer worthy to be his father's son; let alone to have a **position** within his father's household. However, his father readily accepted his son back and established him as a guest of honor by **placing a signet ring on his finger**. He made it clear to both his son and the world that his son, had his seal of approval.

"Ancient kings used signet rings to designate authority, honor, or ownership. A signet contained an emblem unique to the king. Official documents were sealed with a dollop of soft wax impressed with the king's signet, usually kept on a ring on his finger. Such a seal certified the document as genuine, much like a notary public's stamp today."

Got Questions | What does it mean that Zerubbabel was the LORD's signet ring (Haggai 2:23)?

What Are Ring Rights?

Understanding the Rights and Privileges of the Ring

Ring Rights are the rights and privileges provided to you by God the moment you enter the covenant bonds of marriage. It is a prestigious right to have that happily married couples hold in high regard.

However, just as the wedding ring can authenticate or notify others you are happily married. Likewise, while wearing a wedding ring, the actions of one spouse can signal that one or both spouses are unhappily married. Meaning, if the husband or a wife accepts a marital ring but doesn't honor his or her marital vows, he or she brings shame to their spouse, to their household and most importantly they bring shame to the covenant of marriage. Remember, when you are married you are an example of Christ's love for the church and whenever you act "outside" of the marriage mandate (covenant). The guilty parties can effectively teach others seeking marriage to question the purpose and value of marriage in the first place. **Did you know you have a responsibility to act Godly in marriage?**

Scripture teaches us in 1 Corinthians 7:2-4 that each man should have one wife and each woman should have one husband:

1 Corinthians 7:2-4

Amplified Bible

² But because of [the temptation to participate in] sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. ³ The husband must fulfill his [marital] duty to his wife [with good will and kindness], and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴ The wife does not have

[exclusive] authority over her own body, but the husband *shares with her*; and likewise the husband does not have [exclusive] authority over his body, but the wife *shares with him*.

A Little History...

The betrothal ring predates its use in Christian and Jewish wedding ceremonies. In fact, Egyptians believed that the ring finger contained a “**vena amoris**” or a “vein of love” that led from the fourth finger on the left hand directly to the heart. Greeks first adopted this tradition of placing a ring on the fourth finger as a form of devotion to their loved ones.

The Romans then adopted this belief after conquering the Greeks and began giving wedding rings in matrimonial ceremonies even though “**vena amoris**” is not anatomically correct. It is true, the Egyptians are the ones that shaped wedding rings into circles to imitate the shapes of the sun and moon their demigods. But the ultimate reason a ring was provided was to show an eternity of love since circles have no beginning or end.

The King that Blesses the Ring

He Loved it so HE put a Ring on It!

Haggai 2:23 Amplified Bible

²³ On that day,’ declares the LORD of hosts, ‘I will take you, Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, My servant,’ declares the LORD, ‘and I will make you [through the Messiah, your descendant] **like a [a]signet ring, for I have chosen you** [as the one with whom to renew My covenant to David’s line],” declares the LORD of hosts.

At the time, Zerubbabel was the living descendant of King David and Jesus the future Messiah. Zerubbabel was also the governor of the rebuilt city of Jerusalem. Years earlier, Jehoiachin lost his throne and was deported to Babylon. Jehoiachin, was described as **God’s signet ring removed from God’s finger** (Jeremiah 22:24). However, Zerubbabel was viewed as the signet ring put on God’s

finger that would never be removed. By God, symbolizing Zerubbabel as his signet ring he was stating that Zerubbabel was “chosen” for a higher purpose. ***Thus, being set apart as special and in a place of honor in the Kingdom of God.***

Psalm 4:3

Amplified Bible

³ But know that the LORD has set apart for Himself [and dealt wonderfully with] the godly man [the one of honorable character and moral courage—the one who does right].

The LORD hears *and* responds when I call to Him.

This makes sense, that God not only set Zerubbabel apart but hears the call of a Godly man. Many men don't know that the way that a husband treats his wife can determine if his prayers will be heard by God.

1 Peter 3:7

Amplified Bible

⁷ In the same way, you husbands, live with *your wives* in an understanding way [with great gentleness and tact, and with an intelligent regard for the marriage relationship], as with ^{1a}someone physically weaker, since she is a woman. Show her honor *and* respect as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that ***your prayers will not be hindered or ineffective.***

Furthermore, Zerubbabel reestablished the lineage of David, the line from which Jesus was born. Zerubbabel was chosen to bring His purpose and to also bring glory to God. Additionally, upon marriage wives are also set apart and in marriage to bring glory to God for His purpose. The way the wife acts and if she is able to accept the spirit of **submission** the moment her husband puts an engagement ring, followed by the bridal band upon her finger.

Accepting the ring exemplifies to others not only that the wife belongs to her husband in marriage but that she is also special, set apart, and held in high esteem just as Christ esteemed

the church in a special place of recognition in her husband's life that no other woman can ever hold...nor take.

Do You Have the “Submission” Sparkle?!

As a wife, the best way for submission to sparkle not only on your wedding finger but in your marriage is to understand that the word “**submission**” is not a bad word. **Submit**” means “**to give over or yield to the power or authority of another**.” It does not mean that you as a woman are inferior, **Ephesians 5:22-24** lays out the line of succession, in marriage, the heavenly hierarchy of the household. However, to be clear submission is not domineering either.

The truth is many wives would feel more confident in submitting to their spouses if their husbands cultivated the atmosphere of love around them better. Meaning, sometimes it is hard to submit to being led down an unclear path if you do not trust where your husband is leading you to. Wives need a destination, a marriage plan to trust, and to understand where the future of their relationship is going. It is essential for a wife to know where she stands in her marriage, this cannot be a mystery. A flourishing marriage must be rooted in submission to gain submission. **Ephesians 5:21, states, submit (or yield) to one another out of reverence for the Lord.”** This is where husbands and wives must cultivate “**yielding**” communication. As co-heirs to the throne of grace, make your feelings known to one another. Be “**Naked and Not Ashamed**” in dating leading to marriage so that clear communication is not foreign to you and tell each other what you need to feel safe. Submission in this context also mirrors Christ’s love for the church. Submission simply means “respect”.

- ***Wives, will you respect your husbands’ position in the household as the initiator of love, as protector, and as the spiritual head of your family?***

If you cannot honor your husband...then why get married? If you can’t, **don’t** get married.

Build Your Marriage on the Rock!

Marriage is not for the weak or faint of heart. You must be rock steady if you are going to endure the hurdles that can challenge you, your spouse, and your marital vows themselves. If you are getting married to feel loved, or to bring wholeness to yourself, then you need to seek a relationship with God first and not be married at this time. And that’s okay, God wants you at full strength so you can

stand the test of time. This may sound tough, but our assignment is to ensure you and your significant other as well as your spouse know exactly what you are walking into and how to overcome in marriage once you do get married. Marriage is servanthood, it is putting the needs of your mate over your own. Get ready!

Pressure Makes Diamonds

Just think of the pressure as a work in progress. We are faced with trials and temptations to test us. Can you stand the test? If you can sooner or later, you will be turned into a diamond. We all start out as carbon and then God forms us into a diamond, His precious gem, a child of God.

Romans 5:3-4

And not only that but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Just like that element of carbon experienced pressure to become diamonds, we face pressure in the form of temptation and trials to help form us into a diamond. It is only when we keep pressing on that the diamond is formed. When we face these tribulations and overcome them with God, we will bring perseverance. Note the keyword is with God because we cannot do anything without God!

(Philippians 4:13)