



# **Lights and Perfection, Inc.**

**Go and make disciples!**

E-votional 31

## **Perseverance**

Hebrews 10:36 (BSB),

*You need to persevere so that after you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised.*

First, I would love to show the meaning of the word perseverance as it is found in Strongs 5281 hypomoné (from 5259 /hypó, "under" and 3306 /ménō, "remain, endure") – properly, remaining under, endurance; steadfastness, especially as God enables the believer to "remain (endure) under" the challenges He allots in life.

In other words, this is termed as the ability with which God Himself supplies the believer through faith to make it to the finish line. This finish line is, of course, the line we cross when we are received to glory.

However, there is another view of this line, or shall we say lines that we cross this side of heaven in the purposes and callings of God on our life while yet here. To be more clear, we all have a God-given purpose or purposes that require a supernatural strength to be able to get through. Then when we get through them we receive what is promised. It is truly remarkable to be able to follow through with a God-given task in this life by faith to be able to experience that what God has promised is real.

I would like to make a quick contrast between one who perseveres with one who does not as it is found in Scripture. Let's look at the one who does not persevere in the parable of the sower in Matthew 13:21 (NLT), "*But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word.*" The problem with this is that the seed that is sown on this type of soil will not bear the kind of fruit required, "*some thirty, some sixty, and some a hundredfold.*" Now, the good soil produced the fruit it was enabled to produce, all glory to God.

The kind of fruit definitely has to do with the fruit of the Spirit but also it has to do with the fruitful works that are accomplished through faith and alignment with God. One example is of the Apostle Paul running the race the Lord called him to run. He needed a supernatural power and grace just to be able to accomplish the goals allotted to him by the Lord not to mention the ability to persevere the trials and tribulations that were also allotted to him. However, due to the joy and perseverance of Paul, we are all blessed. What I mean is that through faith Paul ran a race that has benefitted all of us to some degree or another.

Are you enrolled in a work of God that is taking all you have to complete it?

I am further reminded of another passage of Scripture that reaffirms this point of view and attests to us the view we should all hold as well.

Hebrews 11:32-34 (ESV),

*And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.*

I can really appreciate the part that says, “*who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises.*” I mean, wow, praise God, we are called to conquer. In another place, the Scriptures teach that we are a kingdom of priests (Rev. 1:6; 5:10). As a kingdom of priests, we are also children of light. I picture being a child of the kingdom of light who is called to conquer the works of darkness by simple obedience to God in whatever place He has called you. This to me speaks of bearing good fruit to God. And of course, we are to bear this type of fruit in cooperation with the fruit of the Spirit, because if we have not love, it profits nothing (1 Corinthians 13:3).

I remember a time where I was sent by God to a place that I definitely would not have chosen to go. It was a program (secular humanism) that I was forced to be in while yet in prison. The fact that it was in prison really makes no difference because we all have been called to some level of difficulty (and in fact, I have been called to some similar feats this side of prison even today) where we can shine forth the glory of God and conquer kingdoms so to speak.

I was confronted every day by people who hated God and showed genuine hatred for me as well. I was stuck, so to speak at this place for about 6 months. However, I kept speaking God’s Word over this place in faith believing that one day I would receive a promise. Now, I never knew what that promise was per se.

But I knew that as a Christian I was called to shine the light of Jesus Christ in the dark places in life as we all are and that darkness could not overcome the light (John 1:5). I chose every day to walk in love and boldness as a disciple of Jesus Christ by the power of His Spirit. It is not so much the comfortable places (believe me it was not a comfortable situation) that God chooses to use us in but the difficult situations He calls us to shine in. When this light shines, it may not be an instantaneous moment where everything changes. God has a time-table and we need perseverance to make it through. Also, the change is not really about us or what we personally want to see, rather it is the change God desires to happen. God is in the soul-saving business and desires that more than our personal comfort. So we have need of perseverance, so that after we have done everything that the Lord wants from us that we will see Him move and do what only He can do.

So I was in this program for 6 months before being thrown into confinement for making a stand for Jesus and against this false-teaching. During these 6 months, I received a lot of persecution from the inmates as well as the program directors. They taught explicitly against the truth of the Bible and were often forceful in it insisting that I was wrong to simply believe the Gospel. I was told often that I would have to struggle with drug addiction and anger and depression all of my life. But I knew that Jesus totally delivered me (and I have been totally free of these now for 8 years). They taught contrary to sound biblical truth and also told us that we were not allowed to talk about our faith. Sometimes, I would break down and cry from the constant oppression, but God gave the ability to persevere because He was on the move and was doing something beyond what I could see. I only had to trust Him.

But I have to say, along the road of those 6 months people were coming to Christ. The very people that hated God as well as hated me were coming to chapel services and sitting next to me. Others were being changed day by day. However, it was not easy and there were times I thought I would surely fall apart. But I had need of perseverance so that after I had done God's will I would receive what was promised. The promise for me as with all of us should be to seek and save that which is lost. There is a lot of people out here in need of Jesus and the forgiveness He offers. But the catcher is, the majority of those people will never enter a church door for it. They abide in darkness, therefore, we need to be obedient to the call and go where they are.

Are you a child of God and in need of perseverance in your life? Are you facing a situation that does not make much sense in the natural way of looking at things? Is this situation at times more than you can bear?

Have hope child of God and do not grow weary while doing good, God has a

purpose for you and desires to use you beyond what you think you are able. He has called you to conquer, simply believe that He is even King over the floods and storms and has a purpose to work all thing together for good for His will to be accomplished on this earth and that through you. Glory to God! He is good and His mercy endures forever. We are praying for all who read this to be encouraged in the Lord and in the power of His might, in Jesus name.

In Christ's Love,  
Chris and Jeanne  
Lights and Perfection, Inc



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