James #37

Can you persevere under pressure?

Our current study in the epistle of James has us looking into true endurance, a steadfast faith even under great pressure;

/James 1:12 **Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial**; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.

Divine happiness (blessed), is seen when the Christian grows into maturity and does not fold under pressure.\

Pressures of testing, temptations and adversities, that they have not brought upon themselves.

/The Believer under self-induced misery or discipline, can only turn that curse into a blessing by taking responsibility and surrendering to the justice of GOD. That self-induced curse can become a blessing of growth and self-awareness, if that Bel moves forward with positive volition toward BD. It may even result in a crown, a blessing or reward in time or in eternity.\

The problem many Believers have is they assume every challenge and adversity is the devil attacking them. They refuse to look upon their own choices, their own lifestyle and take full responsibility.

We then began to look into a very familiar lesson in 1Corinthians chapter ten.

/1Cor 10:13 **No temptation has overtaken you except *something* common to mankind**; and God is faithful, so **He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able**, but with the temptation will provide the **way of escape** also, so that you will be able **to endure it**.\

God gives us everything we need to grow up into Spiritual Maturity.

HE gave us 40 grace gifts at salvation.

We have the very mind of Christ in front of us – the BIBLE, HE gave the gift of pastor-teachers.

We have a supernatural union with Christ.

/All testing and temptations which come to you are common, all people have the same pressures. The original Greek text is closer to this- “*all testing and temptation is human.”* God has supplied us with everything we need to endure (steadfast) and eventually HE will show you the exit sign.\

We all have different capacities at different stages of growth, GOD is well aware of this.

/1Cor 10:13 - *with the testing also HE will make a way of escape, that you might be able to endure it*. We are responsible for our own growth, just as we are responsible to apply doctrine in the new nature in all circumstances. The word *“will”* means - “*will provide with the testing.*” It is written in a future tense, it is future from the testing, it is future from the temptation. There is an endurance needed in it! \

That endurance comes from the proper application of the two power options, learning and growing habitually. Everything GOD supplies us.

The Apostle Peter taught a very similar lesson in 1Peter chapter one;

/1Pet 1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now **for a little while, if necessary**, you have been **distressed by various trials**, 7 **so that the proof of your faith**, *being* more precious than gold which perishes though **tested by fire, may be found to result in praise**, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;\

[1Co 10:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/10/14/s_1072014) Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

(present tense – keep on fleeing)

ALL idolatry is a stumbling-block, not simply sexual or addictions – all forms of idolatry bring forth problems.

[1Co 10:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/10/15/s_1072015) I speak as to wise people; you *then,* judge what I say.

The Apostle Paul tells them to discern and evaluate with the doctrine in your soul – test the spirt coming from my pulpit is what he tells them.

Is the message coming from the pulpit aligning properly with how it is originally written and does is align with other scripture?

Is the man behind the pulpit playing on emotions or using impressive word games, word games that align with the cosmic system?

That is your personal responsibility.

/1Jhn 4:1 Beloved, **do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits**to see whether they **are from God**, because **many false prophets** have gone out into the world.\

Open up in Romans 6 RF.

You must get into accurate teaching, have precise study habits, not just showing up at the church down the block because it’s convenient.

There are many angels of light, false prophets and teachers in the cosmic system…be aware of it!

 REPEAT

/2Cor 11:14 No wonder, for even **Satan disguises himself as an angel of light**.

Who you sit under and trust for your doctrinal intake matters! Many denominations and large churches are not accurately handling the word.\

We are responsible to find the right teacher and accurate theology.

God gives us all we need, the ability to endure it and the way of escape.

Understanding and then application of retroactive positional truth to the experience. TLJC died with reference to the sin nature.

/It means two things. First of all, our sins were assigned to Christ on the cross. By that, I mean from a legal perspective, they were judged. Human good and evil, Christ rejected. The application of retroactive positional truth is two-fold. The application of the sin part: we confess our sins. Then we reject all human good and evil in the temporal life. We begin to walk by the SPIRIT.\

Now we have times where we fail and fall, we may even step backward into Temporal Death, but we simply apply 1John 1:9 and rebound back into the plan of God.

/Rejection of human good comes immediately after confession which is the filling of the Holy Spirit. This is the application of retroactive positional truth to experience. Confession is simply to agree with God about the judgment of our sins. Adjustment to the Justice of GOD places us on step one of application (positional truth). All sins were judged and can never be judged again —it is the law of double jeopardy. \

The letter to the congregation to Rome was written while the Apostle Paul was still in Corinth.

His intent was to travel there but that got interrupted by one of his arrests. He did eventually make it to Rome but that was in shackles.

This portion of the letter is addressing growing into your sanctification and handling the sin issue. Which points to walking in our position – as in current positional truth.

/Rom 6:10 **For the death that He died**, He died to sin **once for all *time****;* but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

“*For the death which He has died*.,” is one Greek verb – *apothnēskō,* in the aorist tense, it is constative, it anticipates the action of the verb in its totality. Meaning all the personal sin in human history was imputed to Christ on the cross, and then the justice of God judged and approved it. ONE AND DONE! \

AH-POTH-NAY-SKO, literally and figuratively to perish - to bring to an end.

The Aorist tense is used as covering the past, present and future – a completion.

It clearly tells us it is done once and for all time – HE LIVES with God is written in the present tense – HE is and always will be in the presence of GOD – because HE is the unique GOD-man. The living God!

[Rom 6:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/6/11/s_1052011) So you too, consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Your position – retroactive positional truth…your old self died upon that cross.

Your current positional truth is now moving you forward, alive with CHRIST, eternally secure.

 REPEAT

Now notice the next few verses points at your personal choice – your free will.

[Rom 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/6/12/s_1052012) Therefore sin is not to reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,

You have a choice when the lust patterns and OSN spark that thought deep within your soul, you need not obey.

 REPEAT

You have a new nature, you have new norms and standards, new ideologies that are from the very mind and righteousness of Jesus Christ.

[/Rom 6:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/6/13/s_1052013) and **do not go on presenting the parts of your body to sin** as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those who are alive from the dead, and your body’s parts *as* instruments of righteousness for God.

This speaks of choice, free will decisions- Union with Christ demands a new way of life for the Believer in time, a way of life related to grace and doctrine.\

The true escape hatch from mounting pressures and temptation is having steadfast faith, a strong endurance.

All of this means you have to have something deep within the soul to lean upon.

 REPEAT

Your old way of problem solving and your old human viewpoint will fail you every time.

Application of BD is the true challenge for the growing Believer.

It begins with recognizing your own thought patterns, your areas of weakness and strength;

/2Cor 10:5 *We are* destroyingarguments and **all arrogance raised against the knowledge of God**, and *we are* **taking every thought captive** to the obedience of Christ, 6 and **we are ready to punish all disobedience**, whenever your obedience is complete.\

Any thought that springs up, any conversation or situation that opposes the WORD should be an immediate red flag, a red flag you do not ignore!

Until you begin deeper studies into the accuracy of the word of God, you may not realize how many subtle opportunities Satan uses to drag us back into the slave market of sin.

 REPEAT

Here is a great definition and explanation from a great teacher and theologian;

/*In the spiritual death of Christ on the cross all personal sins were imputed to Christ and judged, but good and evil was neither imputed nor judged at the cross. In the physical death of Christ and His burial there was a total separation from good and evil. The body of Christ was in the grave, separated from good and evil.*

 *Col. R.B. Thieme Jr.* \

 So, during the three days in the tomb -The spirit of Christ was in the presence of GOD the Father, separated from good and evil.

The soul of Jesus Christ was in the depths of the earth known as Paradise, also separated from good and evil.

/Bels are identified with Christ in His physical death & burial, the Believer is positionally separated from good and evil. Positionally - the Bel has both rejected and separated himself from good and evil. Therefore, the power or authority of the OSN was broken positionally. This is one of many victories IN Christ we can walk in…right now!\

 The old sin nature’s power has been legally, eternally terminated.

[Rom 6:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/6/14/s_1052014) For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under the Law but under grace.

You are now under the law of the grace plan of GOD.

[Rom 6:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/6/15/s_1052015) What then? Are we to sin because we are not under the Law but under grace? Far from it!

Grace is never a license to sin – those who use it for that are insulting the grace of GOD. Its highly disrespectful and usually results in self-induced misery or divine discipline.

[/Rom 6:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/6/16/s_1052016) Do you not know that *the one* **to whom you present yourselves *as* slaves for obedience, you are slaves of *that same one* whom you obey,** either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

If you put your faith in Christ and His Word, you are now set free. It’s your choice to live every day consistent with that freedom.\

[Rom 6:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/6/17/s_1052017) But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to *that* form of teaching to which you were entrusted,

[Rom 6:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/6/18/s_1052018) and after being freed from sin, you became slaves to righteousness.

The only yoke you are under - the only burden you have after salvation is to get closer to God, through the spiritual power and WORD HE gave you.

If you refuse – you still have eternal security. Yet you will miss out on blessings, crowns and rewards… which we will be diving deeper into in our study in James chapter one.

/You were called into walking in your position of victory in time. We have choices we make every day for or against the plan of God. The only way to have stronger faith, steadfast endurance and be able to pass the tests of pressure, adversity and temptation is found in your personal study habits. The answers are found just as your growth is found in what you are constructing in the soul.\

Jesus made it very apparent that your only strength…foundation and growth is through the obedience of faith.

/Mat 7:24 Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts on them, will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 “And the rain fell and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and *yet* it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.\

Let me close with this…

/Psa 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Prov 6:23 For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; And rebukes for discipline are the way of life. (Deu 31:6, Phl 4:13, Isa 40:31, Prov 18:10, Neh 8:10…etc. etc…)\