

PERSISTENCE PRINCIPLE

PERSIST To go on resolutely or stubbornly in spite of opposition, importunity or warning.
To remain unchanged or fixed in a specified character, condition or position.
- Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary 1973

To continue steadily and firmly in the pursuit of any business or course commenced;
to persevere [persist is nearly synonymous with persevere; but persist frequently
implies more obstinacy than persevere, particularly in that which is evil or injurious to
others. - Webster's Dictionary 1828

Winners never quit and quitters never win. - Anon

Examples of persistence throughout the Bible

- Noah persisted for at least 70 years to build the ark of safety for him and others
- Abraham waited 25 years for the promised child from Sarah
- Moses endured 40 years of sand, sheep and solitude under God's leadership training
- Jacob wrestled all night to get a blessing from God - Genesis 32:26
- Hannah persisted in prayer - 1 Samuel 1:1-20
- Watchmen in prayer - Isaiah 62:1,6-7; 64:7
- Paul - 'I have fought the good fight...I finished the race' - 2 Timothy 4:7. Paul had many roadblocks and pressures in his life, but he persisted. -1 Thessalonians 2:18-20; 2 Corinth. 4:8-16, 12:10 (if you need encouragement to keep going, read 2 Corinthians)
- Ephaphras wrestled in prevailing prayer - Colossians 4:12
- **Jesus taught persistence and lived it.....all the way to the Cross**

When Jesus said to 'Ask...seek...knock'. -Matthew 7:7-8. The Greek = 'Keep on asking...keep on seeking...keep on knocking.' This persistence in prayer is not because God is reluctant but because the powers of darkness are being resistant. Daniel experienced this, Daniel 10:12-14. Mark 11:24 speaks of asking and then believing you have received. Sometimes it may take us time to fully believe in our heart. It is what the Christians years ago called 'praying through'. The final phrase re: persist in the 1828 dictionary speaks of persistent evil. The devil persistently attacked Jesus and he attacks Jesus' followers. God has his special agents such as angels and Jesus filled followers. Satan has his messengers too, such as demons and people under their influence. The Pharisees often sought to trap Jesus and even kill him, as did evil kings like Herod / Luke 13:31-33. The Bible lists 8 times when people tried to kill Jesus. Luke 4:16-30, 6:1-11; 19:45-48, 20:9-19, John 5:1-18, 8:48-59; 10:1-39, 11:45-57. Jesus showed us **the secret to persistence; keep your eye on the prize.** - Hebrews 12:1-3. In the letters to the 7 churches, Jesus reminds them of the **rewards** for being overcomers. See Revelation chapters 2& 3 for details.

*To those who by **persistence** in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. - Romans 2:7*

The one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. - Galatians 6:8b-9 NIV