

VIRTUES

2 Peter 1:6 "...and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness."

In this class we have been looking at the stepping stones Christians use to step through life. It is a ladder where each step depends on the strength of the previous. It is a life outlined in several places in our NT.

1. "Perseverance" is seen in the lives of faithful men and women throughout the Bible (24x in NT)

- Whose life in the Old Testament illustrated perseverance? _____

- Concept of patient _____

"And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope" (Romans 5:3-4)

PERSEVERANCE

It means "to patiently endure." In the Bible it usually has an active sense. Perseverance is overcoming difficulties: it is facing pressures and trials that call for a steadfast commitment to doing right and maintaining a godly life.

The NT encourages us to value trials and difficulties, for, they can enable us to develop perseverance (Romans 5:3-4; James 1:3-4). When we are under intense pressure, it is easy to become discouraged. At such times we need to remember the words of Hebrews: "Do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised" (Hebrews 10:35-36).

2. "Perseverance" is _____

- What is my attitude toward hard times in my life as I am serving Christ?
- Do I believe I should not face such difficult times because I am a Christian?
- In the challenges of life am I looking for someone to blame? People around me? God?
- Perseverance is a personal choice.

"But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness." (1 Timothy 6:11)

3. "Perseverance" is a _____ of _____

"But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance." (Luke 8:15)

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." (John 15:4-5)

Where can I see "perseverance" illustrated?

"Now we who are strong ought to bear the _____ of those without strength and not just please ourselves. Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his _____. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED YOU FELL ON ME." For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through _____ and the _____ of the _____ we might have hope. Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 15:1-6)



_____ men are to be examples of perseverance

- "Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance," (2 Timothy 3:10)
- "Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance." (Titus 2:2)
- Paul encouraged a young man named Timothy "But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness."



How do we _____ and persevere?

- Hebrews 10:19-27

How do I _____ out "perseverance" in my life?

- Keep praying...keep knocking (Matthew 7:7-8)...persistent widow (Luke 18:1-8)
- "Stand" with the gospel armor (Ephesians 6:11-18)
- "With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints," (Ephesians 6:18)

What _____ will "perseverance" do me?

Paul noticed Christians who endured in the midst of afflictions (2 Thessalonians 1:4)

Crown of life has been promised to those who love the Lord under trials (James 1:12)

- Encouragement to endure (Heb. 12:2-3)
- Promises to those who endure (Matt. 10:22; 24:13)
- Blessedness of enduring (James 1:25)



Perseverance is a biblical truth that encourages believers to remain steadfast in their faith and obedience to God. Through the examples of people, the teachings of Jesus and the apostles we are called to persevere with the promise of eternal reward.

In Aesop's old allegorical story it is the tortoise who always crosses the finish line while the hare is off distracted by many other things. Step by step, day by day if you continue on then you will persevere.