

Perseverance - the key to reap the best

People like to do short burst or quick success

Perseverance has to go in line with the promise of God

Don't think that you are bearing suffering alone. Christ is bearing the pain with you in your trial to accomplish much more than you could otherwise complete. **you will transcend in your walk with God**

***Perseverance is not a self merited virtue, but virtue by the grace of God (nothing of myself).** If Christ hasn't persevered that faith in you, you will give up so much more easily

- So on what grounds you have to feel good to be able to persevere? **It is god's protection so that you don't fall off your faith when you face with all those trials, dilemmas**

How to make your perseverance more beautiful and meaningful

- Do you persevere in misery? Eg come to church but never happy? Never satisfy with certain things you have, always missing something.. May have born again faith, yet in misery
- **Serenity in people who know how to depend on grace**

* God wants us to be **God-reliant in this process of perseverance**

“Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, **but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.** And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:9-14 NIV)

- What if I cannot persevere?
- If I am genuinely in Christ, a born again believer, **I will persevere. god will preserve me.**
- **So we need to prepare our hearts for it, see the conclusion of your perseverance (gospel preached to the end of the world). Then you won't lose hope in persevering**
- ***this is making your perseverance beautiful (not pathetic)**

I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. (Revelation 2:2-3 NIV)

I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in

prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for **ten days**(the allocated time by God, not too much that you lose faith, neither too little that you are not refined). Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown. (Revelation 2:2-3, 10 NIV)

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. **And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.** Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. (Romans 5:1-4 NIV)

- Have hope not in the outcome but **glory of God because He has poured out His love into our hearts - you will be richly satisfied by His love . You won't be just charged out emotionally, but you will be assuredly joyful**

Why is perseverance essential yet so hard?

1. Christ demonstrates love, power and victory through perseverance
 - Each time we think about love, how do we understand it?
 - Christ love doesn't change regardless the subject responds (cold... Not bothering)
 - **True love, power and victory in shepherding, in living with your loved ones is also shown through perseverance (God enables you not to give up, to continue wanting to care)**
 - Victory that comes through **submission (there is only one victor in this world ie god. But everyone in this world wants victory but submission to God, the victor.**
 - **redefine love, victory and power in your life*
2. **Experience and internalise the love, power and victory of Christ through perseverance**
 - A lot of times you think you have love for this person --> but we do it out of convenience
 - We thought that we are serving Lord -> how you know you are not self-serving? It is through perseverance
3. Why so difficult?
 1. Because it is sth that nail our flesh on the cross again and again, and the **Big me doesn't like it** (but it will get easier!)
 2. It is rejecting satan lies, again and again
 3. Greatest victory over the world, great DOE opens up because of it (perseverance in struggles in preaching that will breed genuine success = evangelism)

How to develop perseverance?

1. Know that it comes from The Lord -> look to Him
2. Sufferings allowed by God -> brings perseverance = **right attitude towards suffering - embrace it boldly, ask Lord for courage, submissive attitude believing He has your best in his heart**
3. **Going through paradoxical struggle - knowing God's word and limitation of flesh -> go into genuine prayer! seeking help and asking for courage**

4. **Find submission in all things**

- Contrary to your belief, when you submit, transcending joy is actually so sweet

5. **Pray and reject lies and false teachings**

- Lies come from satan, and it can be so real (so justifiable)
- Satan's lies is powerful in the way that it makes people yield to it, be controlled by it
- So after knowing the truth, you have to use it to reject lies
- **Therefore, pray - to reject, to cleanse**

6. **Live righteously**

Few issues to pray for with regards to perseverance

1. In the pursuit of God, learn perseverance. After hearing the word, pray and reflect about your life. **Do quality prayer. (Examining your heart - is your heart in line with the word of God, don't give up, and restore)**
2. **Jobs** - down to earth, don't look for quick success. Go with thanksgiving
3. **BGR** - enjoy all other relationships in life, they are all worthy to cherish and blossom, **and then your wait will be worthwhile**
4. **Studies** - **study for god, cultivate the love for learning**
5. **Family living** - a setting where people live together and weaknesses are obvious. There will be no end if you put the right and wrongs. **Complement and persevere. Weakness of man can only be transformed through perseverance.** When others become from bad to worse, you should reflect and ex, some yourself first. You have not covered enough
6. **Evangelising** - continue and not give up.

* **shapes us into God-reliant**

* **kicks us out of spiritual laziness**

Perseverance is not a path to bring us to success, but bring us into greater discovery of God's love and His nature, discover Christ love, power and victory . Attitude in this journey of perseverance is important. In the past we persevere because we want to have certain outcomes, but now we persevere because of Christ - it is his will