

# Perseverance

Resolute and unyielding holding on in following a course of action.

Perseverance commonly suggests activity maintained in spite of difficulties or steadfast and long-continued application.

Steady persistence in adhering to a course of action, a belief, or a purpose; steadfastness.

www.Dictionary.com

By perseverance the snail reached the ark. - Charles Spurgeon

How completely satisfying to turn from our limitations to a God who has none.... For Him time does not pass, it remains.... God never hurries. There are no deadlines against which He must work. To know this is to quiet our spirits and relax our nerves.  
AW Tozer

## What the Bible says!

### 2 Peter 1:3-11 (NIV)

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### Romans 5:3-5

More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

### Hebrews 10:34-39 (ESV)

For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

### Galatians 6:4-10 (ESV)

But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load. One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

### James 1:12-26

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.

God's own holiness thus requires perseverance. "God's grace insures our persevering` but this does not make it any less our persevering." Believers cannot acquire "the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" unless they "press on toward the goal" (Phil 3:14). But as they "work out [their] salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil 2:12), they find that "it is God who is at work in [them], both to will and work for His good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13).

John McArthur - <http://www.gty.org/Resources/articles/9835>

In John 8:31 Jesus says, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed." Scripture repeatedly affirms that those who are genuinely saved will continue in the faith. Paul tells Timothy that if he continues in personal holiness and accurate teaching he will keep moving along the inevitable path of final and glorious salvation. He doesn't mean Timothy would become his own redeemer, but that perseverance in godliness would guarantee that his faith is genuine.

John warns that those who appear to be believers and then depart were never truly saved (1 John 2:19). However those who persevere give evidence of being truly saved.

John McArthur -  
[http://www.gty.org/  
Resources/StudyGuides/2003](http://www.gty.org/Resources/StudyGuides/2003)

What then is it that we know which helps us exult in trouble rather than grumble and complain or even accuse God?

The answer is given in three effects that troubles have on God's people. Effect #1 (verse 3b): "tribulation brings about perseverance." Threats to our faith give occasion for our faith to press on through hard times. Effect #2 (verse 4a): "perseverance brings about proven character." When your faith presses on through hard times, it proves itself to be genuine and real. Tribulations prove faith the way fire tempers steel. It makes it stronger and shows that it is not lead that looks hard but melts in the furnace of affliction. Effect #3 (verse 4b): "proven character brings about hope." If your faith perseveres and shows that it is toughened steel and not melting lead, then you have more hope. Why? Because you see and you feel that you are real. Your faith is not fake...

Tribulations don't just bring about hope, as verse 4b says they do ("proven character brings about hope"); tribulations are endured by hope which we already have going into them, because of what Christ has done for us in justifying us and putting us in the power of grace and giving us the hope of glory...

Look at Romans 15:13. Watch the spiraling nature of hope. "Now may the God of hope [note this] fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope [note this] by the power of the Holy Spirit." So how does hope work in the Christian life? We start with the God of hope. He fills us with joy and peace. How? "In believing." In believing what? In believing all that Christ has done and all he promises to do for us. In other words, our joy and peace rise with what we believe the God of hope is for us in Christ. Joy and peace are sustained by hope. But then the verse says that God fills us with joy and peace "so that you will abound in hope." So here we have more hope coming from the fruit of hope. Hope brings about our joy and peace. And our joy and peace bring about more and more hope...

Tribulation produces perseverance, perseverance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope - not the first hope, but more and more hope and stronger and stronger hope. We start with hope. And we go on from hope to hope.

John Piper - [www.desiringgod.org](http://www.desiringgod.org) - The Love of God Has Been Poured Out Within Our Hearts

John Piper

Perseverance means more than endurance - more than simply holding on until the end. A saint's life is in the hands of God like a bow and arrow in the hands of an archer. God is aiming at something the saint cannot see, but our Lord continues to stretch



*We don't find peace with God first by passing the test of perseverance. We pass the test of perseverance because we have peace with God and know that we are justified and accepted and forgiven and loved and secured in Christ.*

and strain, and every once in a while the saint says, "I can't take any more." Yet God pays no attention; He goes on stretching until His purpose is in sight, and then He lets the arrow fly. Entrust yourself to God's hands. Is there something in your life for which you need perseverance right now? Maintain your intimate relationship with Jesus Christ through the perseverance of faith. Proclaim as Job did, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him" (Job 13:15).

Faith is not some weak and pitiful emotion, but is strong and vigorous confidence built on the fact that God is holy love. And even though you cannot see Him right now and cannot understand what He is doing, you know Him. Disaster occurs in your life when you lack the mental composure that comes from establishing yourself on the eternal truth that God is holy love. Faith is the supreme effort of your life - throwing yourself with abandon and total confidence upon God.

Oswald Chambers

## The Breakdown

Perseverance is an indication of your faith and hope in Christ. It shows you are growing, learning and believing.

Perseverance comes from the hope that is in Jesus and who He is and what He has done. We can push on through trials, testing and character building because Jesus is Lord, He has paid for every sin and He has given us every tool we need to make it through.

Trials and testing never feel good; practicing perseverance is often not a fun weekend activity. But, in the end, know that God is right and all things really do work out for the glory of God; which means they work out for our good as well.

The key to perseverance, and joy while enduring, is the understanding of Christ and the hope that lies in Him. It is not the situation it is how you view the situation.

In the famous words of JD Hatfield always remember "it's not how you feel, it's how you deal."