

PERSEVERANCE

Will I Persist?

November 17, 2024

Psalm 25:4-5—*Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.*

Genesis 7:17-24—*For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than fifteen cubits. Every living thing that moved on land perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark. The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days.*

HOW DO WE PERSIST THROUGH HARD TIMES?

- > Paul faced hard times.

2 Corinthians 4:8-9—*We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.*

2 Corinthians 11:23-28—*...I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.*

- > Paul persevered through hard times.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18—*Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

PAUL'S 5 PERSEVERANCE PRINCIPLES

1. Resolve to not lose heart.

2 Corinthians 4:16—*Therefore we do not lose heart...*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18—*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

2. Understand the difference between outward versus inward.

2 Corinthians 4:16—*...Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.*

3. Appreciate the distinction between light and momentary versus eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:17—*For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.*

4. Determine where you will fix your eyes.

2 Corinthians 4:18—*So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

5. Choose to live for the glory of God.

2 Corinthians 4:7—*But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.*

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All verses quoted in New International Version unless otherwise noted.

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