



The Good News

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The Real Perseverance of the Saints

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As we study the New Testament, we find that there are many characteristics that are to be a part of the servant of God. We realize that loving God and doing His commandments are two of the first principles that every person must understand about being a servant of God. However, there are many more qualities that go into being an acceptable and pleasing sacrifice to Him, such as having the quality of perseverance in our lives. The definition of perseverance is “*steady persistence in a course of action, a purpose, a state, etc, especially in spite of difficulties, obstacles, or discouragement*”. Imagine a servant of God without this particular quality; what would he or she be like? We realize that perseverance enables us to maintain our faithfulness and service even in the worst of times. In fact, we find that perseverance and endurance relate to many other attributes as a Christian. Consider today the following concepts about perseverance and ask if it would be possible to be a servant of God without this wonderful trait.

Other attributes that have a direct impact on perseverance, and vice versa: There are several attributes that are related to perseverance, including a steadfast faith in God and in His word, patience in life, having self-control over the body and the mind, having a desire to work, having the motivation to succeed, and having determination despite obstacles. All of these qualities help produce within us the quality of perseverance. But when perseverance is missing or weak within the servant of God, there are issues with other qualities as well. We can all agree that the qualities mentioned above are crucial and vital for the Christian to serve God acceptably. It is therefore also vital that the Christian always makes sure that these qualities,

as well as the quality of perseverance, is within him or her.

Perseverance helps us to endure all circumstances in life: Once such circumstance that we find ourselves in every day is performing a particular role, such as being a parent, a spouse, a friend, a co-worker, or a brother or sister in Christ. It is imperative that the servant of God is able to persevere in these times as others look to us as examples of what a Christian is to be, no matter what is going on around us at the time. In **I Tim. 4:12**, Paul encouraged Timothy to be an example to and of the believers in all the ways he conducted himself. Sometimes as a friend or co-worker we point out certain teachings from the Bible about the importance of a pure life. In these times, perseverance enables us to deal with whatever response we receive and encourages us to continue in faithfulness to God. As a parent, we may have to discipline our child for some misdeed, and we may wonder if our child will ever learn to be a wise and faithful Christian one day. Perseverance enables us to continue raising that child in the care and admonition of the Lord so that one day they will have an opportunity to obey the Gospel. Without perseverance, a servant of God might not ever stand for truth around others, might not be a godly parent or spouse, and might not bear all things with his or her brethren as they should.

Perseverance is vital to maintaining godly character. In someone who lacks perseverance, that character may be compromised. We must always strive to persevere in faithfulness at all times, realizing that it is a quality that can grow stronger or weaker depending on our character. Let us seek to make our character strong, and thus have a persevering quality that is also strong.