

Building Blocks Of Faith: A Persevering Spirit!

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Building Block #5: A Persevering Spirit!

Building Blocks Of Faith, Pt.5

2 Peter 1:5, *For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, **perseverance**...*

Gr. Hupomone - (hupo = under + meno = under) Translated Perseverance, Endurance, Patience, Steadfastness

Definition: Hupomone speaks of a believer who remains under the difficult circumstances or trials of life in a God-honoring way. It is the ability to faithfully deal triumphantly with anything that life throws at us.

Self-control has to do with handling the **pleasures** of life, while **perseverance** relates to the **pressures** and **problems** of life.

Perseverance is that spiritual staying power that will die before it gives in. It is the virtue which can endure, not simply with resignation, but with a vibrant hope.

Perseverance involves doing what is right and never giving in to the temptation or trial. It is a conquering patience or conquering endurance.

Hupomone portrays a picture of steadfastly and unflinchingly bearing up under a heavy load and describes that quality of character which does not allow one to surrender to circumstances...

Hupomone does not describe a grim resignation or a passive “grin and bear it” attitude but a triumphant facing of difficult circumstances knowing that even out of evil God guarantees good.

Hupomone never means simply the ability to sit down and bear things but the ability to rise up and conquer them.

Morris: Hupomone is the attitude of the soldier who in the thick of battle is not dismayed but fights on stoutly whatever the difficulties.

Aquinas: Give me, O Lord, a steadfast heart, which no unworthy affection may drag downwards; give me an unconquered heart, which no tribulation can wear out.

Barclay: *Hupomone* is usually translated patience, but patience is too passive a word... *Hupomone* does not simply accept and endure; there is always a forward look in it.

James 1:2, *Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith **produces perseverance**. 4 Let **perseverance** finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

Biblical Examples Of Perseverance:

-Job And His PROBLEMS

James 5:11, *As you know, we count as blessed those who have **persevered**. You have heard of Job's **perseverance** and have seen **what the Lord finally brought about**.*

Job 23:11, *My feet have closely followed His steps; I have kept to His way without turning aside.*

Job 42:12, *The LORD blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the former part.*

-David After His FAILURE

Psalm 51:10, *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a **steadfast** spirit within me.*

-Paul Living With His THORN

2 Corinthians 12:7, *... I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you,*

for My power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

-Jesus Is The ULTIMATE EXAMPLE

Hebrews 12:1, *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with **perseverance** the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He **endured** the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

How To Grow A Persevering Spirit:

1 - Have A Consistent PRAYER LIFE

Romans 12:12, *Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, **faithful in prayer.***

2 - Read, Study And Learn The SCRIPTURES

Romans 15:4, *For everything that was written in the past was **written to teach us**, so that through the **endurance** taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.*

3 - Be Consistent In Individual And Corporate WORSHIP

Romans 15:5, *May the God who gives **endurance** and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, 6 so that with **one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

4 - Surround Yourself With GREAT EXAMPLES

2 Timothy 3:10, *You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, **endurance**, 11 persecutions, sufferings... I **endured**. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them.*

5 - Serve God FAITHFULLY

1 Thessalonians 1:3, *We remember before our God and Father your **work** produced by faith, your **labor** prompted by love, and your **endurance** inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

6 - Have A Positive ATTITUDE

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. 8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed... 16 Therefore we do not lose heart... 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.*

7 - Look Beyond Your Problems To Your Ultimate REWARD

2 Timothy 4:6, *For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 **Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing.*

Putting This Message Into Practice:

-Write down the struggles and difficulties in your life — ask God what He wants you to learn from them and how He wants you to handle them.

-Go to the Connect Wall and find out more about the Church or find a Life Group on campus or a Home Group.