

# PERSEVERING IN TIMES OF TRAIL

743dt

**TEXT: 2 Timothy 2:3**

## INTRODUCTION

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word perseverance, patience, endurance?
2. The Greek for perseverance is "an abiding under".
3. Strong defines the word as "a cheerful (or hopeful) endurance".
4. It implies suffering, enduring, or waiting, as a determination of the will and not simply under necessity.
5. In the passive sense, it would be like a ship anchored in a storm, under attack by the wind and waves yet remaining secured to that one spot by the anchor.
6. This certainly sounds good, but the word implies more!
7. In the active sense, it is like a ship sailing despite the storm.
8. It is like a ship under attack by the wind and waves, but pressing on to its destination despite the obstacles.
9. It involves more than just a "grin and bear it" attitude!
10. It is described as bearing all trials and difficulties with an even mind, enduring in all, and persevering through all.
11. This is exemplified by Jesus in **Hebrews 12:1-2**, and also by Paul in **2 Timothy 3:10-11**.
12. Perseverance is not simply putting up with trials, but "bearing up under trials" and it is a quality required of Christians.

## I. THE SCRIPTURE DEMANDS PERSEVERANCE

### A. IT IS NECESSARY FOR MATURE GROWTH.

1. We must allow patience to develop our character – **James 1:4**.
2. We must bear fruit with patience - **Luke 8:15**.

### B. IT IS NECESSARY TO ENDURE TRIALS.

1. Perseverance helped the Thessalonians to endure trials - **2 Thessalonians 1:4**.
2. It helped Job to endure his trials - **James 5:11**.

## II. HOW TO DEVELOPMENT PERSEVERANCE

### A. YOU MUST HAVE THE RIGHT ELEMENTS.

1. You must have the Word of God that provides the strength you need to persevere.
2. You must have a strong prayer life, as Paul prayed for the Colossians – **Colossians 1:11**.

### B. YOU MUST HAVE THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE.

1. You must look to Jesus - **Hebrews 12:1-4**.
2. Look to the prophets of old - **James 5:10-11**.
  - a. Their example of steadfastness should motivate us.
  - b. Consider what they patiently endured - **Hebrews 11:32-38**.
3. Looking to each other - **Hebrews 3:12-14**.
  - a. Encouragement by brethren is a powerful aid to being persistent.
  - b. Through daily exhortations we are more likely to bear up under trials.
4. Looking at life with a positive attitude - **James 1:2-3**.

### **III. THERE MUST BE A DEMONSTRATION OF PERSEVERANCE**

- A. A demonstration of perseverance is required in all trying circumstances.
- B. There are times when remaining active for the Lord is difficult.
- C. Many Christians make their disappointments an excuse for shirking their duties to the Lord.
- D. But to truly demonstrate perseverance we must continue to press on in carrying out our responsibilities for the Lord.

### **CONCLUSION**

1. Perseverance involves the idea of bearing up under trials...
  - a. In times of tribulation, it means to keep pressing on.
  - b. In times of temptation, it means to turn our backs on them.
2. Are you living the Christian life with perseverance? – **1 Timothy 6:12.**