

Time In God's Word

A Heart That Perseveres

Week 6: Heart Track

Bible Study

1. The Call To Persevere

In Ephesians 6:18 the Greek word transliterated proskarteresis means perseverance. This word only occurs only one time in the Bible. In this verse what is the context in which we are called to persevere?

*"With every prayer and request, pray at all times in the Spirit,
and with this in view, be alert with all perseverance
and every request for all the saints," (NAS)*

Why do you think perseverance in this is important?

What might that look like for you?

What else are we called to persevere in?

| | Believers are called to persevere in: | What does this look like for you? |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually. 1 Chronicles 16:11(ESV) | | |
| But you must return to your God; maintain love and justice, and wait for your God always. Hosea 12:6 (NIV) | | |
| rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, Romans 12:12 (NAS) | | |
| And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good. 2 Thessalonians 3:13 (NIV) | | |
| strengthening the souls of the disciples and encouraging them to continue in the faith. “We must endure many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said. Acts 14:22 (NIV) | | |

In the verses listed above, what other words or phrases communicate perseverance?

2. Examples of Perseverance

Read Hebrews 11: 24-27. Circle the word persevere.

“24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. 25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. 27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.” (NIV)

What did perseverance look like for Moses?

What helped him persevere?

What can you learn about perseverance from Moses?

In James 5:11 we are given another example of someone who “persevered.”

“As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered.¹ You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.” (NIV)

What did perseverance look like for Job?

¹ The Greek word used in James 5:11 is transliterated hypomone. [Mounce's Expository Dictionary](#) states, “hypomone refers to perseverance in the face of hostile forces.” p. 509.

And the BEST example of all...

Read Hebrews 12:1-3

“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, 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. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” (NIV)

What did perseverance look like for Jesus?

What helped him persevere?

What can you learn from Jesus about perseverance?

How might your story have been different if Jesus hadn't persevered?

Take a moment to write out a prayer of thanks to him:

3. Benefits of Persevering

“After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before.” Job 42:10 (NIV)

What did the Lord finally bring about for Job?

What benefits of persevering are evident in the following verses?

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. (NIV)

1 Timothy 4:16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. (NIV)

1 Peter 2:20 But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. (NIV)

James 1:12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. (NIV)

*James 5:10-11a Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. **11** As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. (NIV)*

Revelation 3:10-11 Because you have obeyed my command to persevere, I will protect you from the great time of testing that will come upon the whole world to test those who belong to this world. I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown. All who are victorious will become pillars in the Temple of my God, and they will never have to leave it. And I will write on them the name of my God, and they will be citizens in the city of my God—the new Jerusalem that comes down from heaven from my God. And I will also write on them my new name. (NLT)

4. Perseverance & Love

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.² (NIV)

What do you learn about perseverance from this verse?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 as translated in the Message Bible.

“If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don’t love, I’m nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. 2 If I speak God’s Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, “Jump,” and it jumps, but I don’t love, I’m nothing. 3-7 If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don’t love, I’ve gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I’m bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have. Love doesn’t strut, Doesn’t have a swelled head, Doesn’t force itself on others, Isn’t always “me first,” Doesn’t fly off the handle, Doesn’t keep score of the sins of others, Doesn’t revel when others grovel, Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, Puts up with anything, Trusts God always, Always looks for the best, Never looks back, But keeps going to the end.” (MSG)

What does this add to your understanding of perseverance?

How does having a heart that perseveres, relate to a heart that is humble, a heart that hopes, a heart that is patient?

² This is also the Greek word hypomeno.

5. *The Role of Perseverance In Discipling Women*

Why do you think it is important to have a heart that perseveres when discipling women?

6. *What Can Help You Persevere?*

Psalm 37:23-24 The steps of a man are established by the Lord when he delights in his ways. When he falls he will not be hurled headlong because the Lord is the One who holds his hand. (ESV)

Jeremiah 32:40 I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me. (NIV)

John 10:28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. (NIV)

Philippians 1:6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (NIV)

But we have a part to play too!

Philippians 2:12-13 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. (NIV)

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. (NIV)

What thoughts come to mind as you consider this?

7. *Highlights from Your Time In God's Word*

What have you sensed the Lord highlight for you as you've spent this time with Him in His Word?

What do you sense He is inviting you to do in response?

What could it look like practically for you to do this?