

Christian Characteristics

Perseverance

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1. Define Perseverance

Perseverance (or steadfastness) refers to the act of continuing in faith and good works despite difficulties, trials and opposition.

It's about holding firm to one's purpose, remaining tenacious, and not giving up, especially when facing challenges or setbacks.

It's also about enduring suffering and hardship while maintaining one's commitment to God. 2

1. Define Perseverance

A. Perseverance is defined as the steadfast effort to follow God's commands and engage in His work.

The New Testament emphasizes that genuine faith is demonstrated through perseverance in good works (James 2:14-26).

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B. Perseverance is rooted in a faithful trust in God's unwavering support for His people.

By committing to God's work, Christians not only strengthen the church but also develop their character.

Rom. 5:3-4

3 And not only this, but we also **exult in our tribulations**, knowing that **tribulation** brings about perseverance;

4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;

1. Define Perseverance

C. Perseverance brings believers closer to God, reinforcing their relationship with Him and providing assurance of a final reward in heaven.

1 John 5:13

13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Christians should express their gratitude for God's saving grace and deepen their faith.

Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary

1. Define Perseverance

A. Endurance in the Face of Trials

B. Steadfastness in Faith

C. Commitment to God's Will

D. Reward for Perseverance

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Luke 9:57-62

57 As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, “I will follow You wherever You go.”

58 And Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”

59 And He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.”

60 But He said to him, “Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.”

61 Another also said, “I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home.”

62 But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

1. Define Perseverance

The challenges and commitments involved in following Christ.

A. There is a need for total dedication.

B. Spiritual duties take precedence over family obligations.

C. True discipleship requires immediate and unconditional commitment, free from worldly distractions and delays.

2. Share two verses in the Bible concerning “Perseverance” and explain the verses.

Heb. 12:1-2

1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 9

2. Share two verses in the Bible concerning “Perseverance” and explain the verses.

James 1:2-4

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

4 And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

3. Provide an example of someone who exhibited “Perseverance” in the Old Testament.

Jeremiah the Prophet

Jeremiah is known as the “Weeping Prophet” for several reasons. He wept over idolatry and false prophets. He prophesied about the downfall of many kingdoms, only to be further persecuted.

Jeremiah continued to preach and prophesy in the Lord's name. His story exemplifies what it means to praise God in hard times.

4. Provide an example of someone who exhibited “Perseverance” in the New Testament.

The Bleeding Woman

In Luke 8:40-48, a woman "who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her" came up unnoticed and touched Jesus' cloak. She was immediately healed. Jesus asked who had touched his clothes and discovered that it was this woman.

Then, Jesus uttered these frequently repeated but meaningful lines:

*"Daughter, **your faith has healed you**. Go in peace."*

Luke 8:48

5. How do Christians reflect a Christ-Like attitude through “Perseverance”?

A Christ-like attitude in perseverance means remaining steadfast and resilient in difficult situations, demonstrating unwavering faith and trust in God's promises.

It involves showing patience, humility and being focus on God's will, even when faced with setbacks or challenges.

5. How do Christians reflect a Christ-Like attitude through “Perseverance”?

Seek God's Guidance and Strength:

Perseverance is rooted in faith and trust in God's faithfulness.

Regularly pray, study the Bible, and seek guidance from fellow believers to strengthen your resolve.

Remember that God is with you in every trial and difficulty, offering the strength and encouragement you need to persevere.

6. How do you grow in “Perseverance” and seek opportunities to demonstrate “Knowledge” to others?

To grow in perseverance, it's important to develop a growth mindset, to put knowledge into action and to build a supportive network of Christians.

Focus on your strengths, learn from mistakes and celebrate small victories along the way.

6. How do you grow in “Perseverance” and seek opportunities to demonstrate “Perseverance” to others?

To demonstrate “Perseverance” to others :

- A. Embrace a humble, patient and forgiving attitude, while mirroring Christ's example.
- B. Avoid judging others, focusing instead on understanding and serving them, as Jesus did.
- C. Cultivate a mindset of joy and gratitude, even in the face of hardship.

6. How do you grow in “Perseverance” and seek opportunities to demonstrate “Perseverance” to others?

D. Be patient and persistent in your relationships with others, demonstrating love and understanding even when faced with difficulties.

E. Approach challenges with a strong belief in God's faithfulness and His promises.