

## The Absolute Necessity of Perseverance

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### Introduction: Perseverance Is a Quality Everyone Needs to Be Faithful Until the End (Heb. 10:36).

A. **Persevere** (Patience, KJV): “Steadfastness, constancy, endurance; in the New Testament, the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings...” (Thayer).

B. No matter how much knowledge, talent, and blessings you have in life, without perseverance, you will *never* make it into Heaven.

C. Perseverance is a quality that every Christian is *required* by God to possess (1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 3:10; 2 Pet. 1:6; Rev. 3:10).

1. By persevering, we prove our *character* before God to be genuine; we demonstrate that we are committed through the trials of life (Rom. 5:3-4).

D. To develop perseverance, we must go to God and be taught by His word (Rom. 15:4-6).

### I. Perseverance Is Essential to Our Victory Over Sin.

A. Even after receiving forgiveness, many brethren are devastated by their sins and feel like failures.

1. Brethren “beat themselves up” to such a degree that in some cases they end up “*wallowing in the mud*” (2 Pet. 2:22)!
2. They resign to their weaknesses and decide: “*What’s the use in trying!*”

B. Victory over sin requires perseverance, not perfection.

1. Too often, we view ourselves as either successes or failures before God and base this on a one time event.
2. Though God wants us to strive for perfection or maturity (Mat. 5:48), He does not want us to *ever* claim that we have “arrived”! (1 John 1:10).
3. To maintain fellowship with the Lord we must *persevere* to keep God’s law as best we can and confess our sins as they occur (1 Jn 1:5-9).
4. Perseverance is essential to a victorious life over sin, to “*fight the good fight*” against sin to the very end (2 Tim. 4:7-8).

C. Perseverance through sin is about *learning* from our mistakes, rather than letting them “define us.”

1. If we are not careful, we can label ourselves as “failures” in a particular area of sin and as a result “self-prophecy” and continue to repeat the sin..
2. How would *God* have us to look at our past? (1 Tim. 1:12-16; 1 Cor. 6:9-11).
3. Every time we “fall down” we must resolve to “get up again” each and every time and persevere to do better! (Jer. 8:4)

## II. Perseverance Is Essential for Spiritual Development.

A. Every Christian should continue to grow spiritually throughout life.

1. Those who have fellowship with the Lord bear fruit (**John 15:1-8; e.g., Gal. 5:22-23**).
2. Since genuine change is often difficult, slow and gradual, many become impatient and give up too easily.

B. Spiritual maturity and development *demands* perseverance.

1. True spiritual change and transformation is not an “overnight” process, but requires plenty of perseverance (**Luke 8:15**).
2. What are your spiritual goals? To meet your goals, you *need* perseverance!

## III. Perseverance Is Essential to Doing God’s Will.

A. Perseverance is necessary for our devotion to prayer.

1. We are commanded to be devoted to prayer (**Col. 4:2; Acts 2:42; 1 Thes. 5:17**).
2. Prayer is vital to our fellowship with God and maintaining a close union with the Lord (**Ps. 42:1-2**).
3. Satan will try anything and everything to prevent us from praying (e.g., distractions, excuses, play on our emotions, entertainment, laziness, etc.).
4. In our fight against “*the schemes of the devil*” (**Eph. 6:11**), we must “*pray at all times*” and this requires perseverance (**Eph. 6:18**).

B. Perseverance is necessary to obey God, *especially* during the trials of life (**Rev. 14:12**).

1. Hectic schedules and troublesome times may cause us to grow weary in doing the good we know we ought to do.
2. Our resolve must be that we will obey God no matter what! (**Rev. 13:10**) (e.g., persecution, suffering, self-sacrifice, time, energy, hardship, etc.).
3. Like the apostle Paul, we can persevere through our trials by the strength the Lord provides (**2 Cor. 11:23-28; 12:7-10**).
4. We can persevere to “do good” in good times *and* bad when we keep our hearts focused on Eternal life with God (**Rom. 2:7; Gal. 6:7-10**).

**Conclusion: Perseverance Is Absolutely Necessary to Enter Into Heaven (2 Peter 1:4-11).**