

Home Group Notes
Week of February 11, 2024
2 Peter 1: “You CAN Have it All” week #6 – Perseverance



WHAT HELPS?

We all face challenges and temptations. What truly helps you in those times? Do you share them with others when you are in difficult times? Why or why not?

LEARN FROM GOD’S WORD

We are walking through a letter in the Bible written to (1) encourage believers to live in the knowledge and grace of God, (2) to be people of holiness and godliness, and (3) to warn them of false teachers, and (4) to be prepared for the difficult days ahead. This letter could be written to the church today. These same challenges and dangers are in our culture and the same grace and knowledge of God is just as needed.

Peter said in chapter one that the result of adding certain qualities (practices) is that “we can become partakers of the divine nature.” That is, we can grow to be more like Jesus. Each week we are spotlighting one quality that Peter says to add to our genuine faith. The sequence looks like this: Add to your faith, goodness (excellence), to goodness add knowledge, to knowledge add self-control. Peter then wrote to add “perseverance” to our self-control. Written in sequence, it looks like the following: Faith – Goodness – Knowledge – Self-control – Perseverance . . .

Some have defined “perseverance” as ‘to hold up or bear up in times of difficulty, to remain steadfast, especially in times of opposition or challenge.’ Our English word is translated from the Greek word *hypomonē*, which literally means ‘to remain under something like a heavy load.’ Another might define it as ‘the need to keep on keeping on in spite of adversity.’ It is more than patience when being persecuted. It is also endurance in holiness when we encounter temptation.

Consider the following Scriptures and questions about “perseverance:”

What were the recipients of this letter facing and what kind of perseverance was needed?

2 Peter 2:1-3

What helps us persevere?

1 Thessalonians 1:3

2 Thessalonians 3:3-5

1 Peter 1:3

Hebrews 12:1

James 1:3

James 5:11

Question: Why is “perseverance” on this list of things to add?

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

Ask the Lord to bring to mind the pressures and temptations that you are you facing. From what we studied, what does God promise to do in you? What is your role in perseverance? Since God wants us to follow Jesus together, could you share your challenges with a friend this week?

DISCUSS TOGETHER

Knowing that God has given us His power “so that through them we may participate in the divine nature” as we “make every effort” to add these qualities (practices), how does “perseverance” fit into the process of God changing us?

In 2 Peter 2:1-3, we see some of challenges and pressures that the recipients of this letter were facing. What are we facing today? What kind of “perseverance” is needed?

How can we be a help to each other when we need to persevere? Also, are there some things that we tend to do in relationships that don’t help us persevere?

PLEASE PRAY

- Pray for our church to love and support the many families facing difficult days
- Pray for our High School ministry and those going to winter retreat Feb 23-25
- Pray for International Friendship Connection as they love and build relationships
- Pray for and encourage your Global Partners