

“The Most Excellent Way”

Attitude of Victorious Living: “Perseverance”

“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad for great is your reward in heaven...” Matthew 5:11-12

I stand firm in my faith that Jesus is in control of all things.

Faith • Promises • Power

Called • Choose • Commit • Change

2 Peter 1:1-18

To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. 5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, 6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, 7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; 11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you. 12 Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. 13 I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, 14 knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. 15 And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind. 16 For we did not follow cleverly devised

tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased" — 18 and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. NASU

"A continual looking forward to the eternal world is not a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do." -C. S. Lewis

Hebrews 12:1-3

We have all these great people around us as examples. Their lives tell us what faith means. So we, too, should run the race that is before us and never quit. We should remove from our lives anything that would slow us down and the sin that so often makes us fall. 2 We must never stop looking to Jesus. He is the leader of our faith, and he is the one who makes our faith complete. He suffered death on a cross. But he accepted the shame of the cross as if it were nothing because of the joy he could see waiting for him. And now he is sitting at the right side of God's throne. 3 Think about Jesus. He patiently endured the angry insults that sinful people were shouting at him. Think about him so that you won't get discouraged and stop trying. -ERV

"Endurance is the ability to stand up under adversity; perseverance is the ability to progress in spite of it." - Jerry Bridges

The Spirit of God giving perseverance is the difference between victory and failure. We must ask and continue to keep asking for His power to overcome.

"By perseverance the snail reached the ark" - C. H. Spurgeon

As Christians mature, they increase in their faith that Jesus is sufficient to take care of all their needs listening exclusively to His voice. Every trial helps to establish that maturity, as we listen to God's voice for perseverance. God has insight into us that we do not have in our self-centered thinking, so moment by moment, after looking into His Word or having someone share His Word with us, Jesus wants us to ask Him to increase our faith. He will deal with flawed thinking regarding certain trials, opposition and problems. To persevere, we must listen to God's voice over the world's or our flesh or Satan's deceit, for our pride hinders our perseverance and all three enemies appeal to our pride. It's only through His Word and His strength given to us through His Spirit that we will persevere. Simply put, we can't do it, so we must listen to God in order to persevere. A maturing Christian is in God's Word to listen to His voice, so they can distinguish between the other voices that seek to destroy them.