

Perseverance

2 Peter 1:6



Small Group Study, week commencing 31st October 2022

For starters

When have you had to persevere? What was (or is) your experience of perseverance - during and after?

Introduction

Peter continues to build up his equation for a fruitful Christian life, i.e.

faith + goodness + knowledge + self-control + perseverance + godliness + mutual affection + love (verses 5-7) = effective and productive knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (verse 8)

In this study we take a closer look at **perseverance**, using an Old Testament example of perseverance as a basis for a broad discussion.

The Greek word translated perseverance in 2 Peter 1:6 is *hupomenō*, and means to remain, endure, stand firm, persevere.

Read

Read [1 Samuel 1:1-20](#) and [2 Peter 1:2-6](#).

Study

1. Consider the story of Hannah as told in 1 Samuel 1. What was the root cause of her need to persevere (verse 6)? What difference does it make to our attitude to perseverance if we perceive the reason for our need to persevere is (a) the Lord's doing, (b) the work of the enemy, or (c) our own choices?
2. How was Hannah's situation eased (verse 5) or aggravated (verse 6) by those around her?
3. Elkanah seeks to encourage Hannah (verses 5,8). His words are well-intentioned, but how do you think they were perceived?
4. How have people helped or hindered you when you have needed to persevere with something?

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5. “People often say they are looking for a new challenge, but often what that means is that they aren’t prepared to face the real challenge of staying where they are, working through the present tiredness and boredom, and completing the job they have started.” (Tom Wright). Discuss. In what ways do we try to escape the need to persevere? How do we rationalise our escape attempts?

6. William Barclay described perseverance as “the courageous acceptance of everything that life can do to us and the transmuting of even the worst event into another step on the upward way.” How does Hannah exemplify this?

7. Read Hebrews 12:1-3. “And let us run with *perseverance* the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus... For the joy that was set before him he *endured* the cross ... Consider him who *endured* ...” How does Jesus’ example inspire you to keep on going?

8. In what areas of life do you need to persevere?

Prayer

Read the following verses, and pick up the themes and promises in your prayers for each other.

“[We] glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us” (Romans 5:3-5).

“May the Lord direct your hearts into God’s love and Christ’s perseverance” (2 Thessalonians 3:5).

“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” (James 1:12).