

Perseverance

Stubbornness is generally not considered a praiseworthy trait. Stubborn people are often viewed as those opposed to change and progress. A clear line, however, exists between stubbornness and *perseverance*. Stubbornness is the “unreasonable” refusal to change. Perseverance is the determined adherence to a course of action regardless of the obstacles.

If one searches in Scripture for a positive reference to stubbornness, it is fruitless — every time the word is used it is done so in a negative context. Perseverance, however, is always used positively.

In Scripture, perseverance is closely tied with the Christian faith. It is rooted on the faith in a divine purpose for all things and an unwavering confidence in a secure eternity. That is why the word is often used to describe a necessary component in living as a Christian in a sinful world.

Consider these passages:

(James 1:12) *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.*

(Hebrews 10:36) *You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.*

(Romans 5:3-5) *Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*

Sin brought great hardship upon this world. Bodies meant to live forever die. Animals intended to serve man become predators. Compassion and love, as the core components of God’s premier creation, give way to hatred, suspicion, and discord.

It is a daily battle, and one that weighs heavy on all people – even the children of God. Facing the deteriorating effects of a disease requires perseverance to fight the feeling of hopelessness. Harmony within a family that is fractured by selfishness and disappointment requires perseverance to make it to the next day. At every turn there is cause to feel frustrated, disappointed, and hopeless.

Is this really surprising? After all, this world goes away. It has no eternity of its own. For us this is a momentary time in an eternity reserved for us by Christ. That is what Scripture communicates. We are told in Romans 8:18: *I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.*

That is perseverance. Don’t lose your eternal perspective. Remain confident, determined, and unwavering in the only certain things there are in life — the promises of God. Persevere!

For additional information and resources in dealing with this life topic, visit the Christian Life Resources website at www.ChristianLifeResources.com or call us at 1-800-729-9535.