



"CHOOSING PERSEVERANCE OVER DEFEAT"

PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14

DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS
JANUARY 20, 2019

Introduction: Today we are going to begin looking at the first -- and perhaps most foundational -- attitude choice to experiencing the abundant life Jesus promised His followers.

I. Defining Perseverance

Definition of Perseverance: Perseverance is the **determination** to continue pursuing your dream in spite of unexpected **setbacks**, underserved **criticism**, and unrelenting **hard work**.

II. Qualifying Perseverance

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?"

- A. Does Your Goal Violate Any **Principles** in God's Word?
- B. Is Your Goal in Keeping with God's **Purpose** for Your Life?
- C. How Will the Achievement of Your Goal Bring **Honor** to God?

1 Corinthians 10:31 "Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."



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III. Illustrating Perseverance In The Bible

A. The Story of Joshua and the Walls of Jericho (Joshua 6)

Joshua 6:2 "And the Lord said to Joshua, 'See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and the valiant warriors.'"

Hebrews 11:1 "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

B. The Story of Naaman and the Unusual Command (2 Kings 5)

2 Kings 5:10 "...Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you and you shall be clean."

2 Kings 5:11 "But Naaman was furious and went away and said, 'Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and cure the leper.'"

Joshua 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success."

2 Kings 5:14 "So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."

IV. Developing Perseverance In Your Life

A. Understand the Value of Persistence



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B. Anticipate Obstacles in Achieving Your Goals

2 Corinthians 12:8-9 ⁸ "Concerning this [thorn in the flesh] I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. ⁹ And He has said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.' Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me."

Philippians 3:14 "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

C. Realize that Failure Is Not Final

Ecclesiastes 11:1 "Cast your bread on the surface of the waters, for you will find it after many days."

D. Expect to Work Hard

1 Corinthians 9:26-27 ²⁶ "Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; ²⁷ but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified."

Conclusion