

07182021 **Perseverance is the character trait of success.! Spiritually , relationally, emotionally, financially...pretty much in any area of life...**

Why is perseverance so important....Perseverance is necessary because success is incremental....

*James 1:4 Let perseverance **finish its work** so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.NIV*

a key phrase here is finish its work...which means there is a start...which indicates a timeline is needed for the accomplishment of the work...to become mature, and whole (complete) well rounded, fully capable, grounded (not lacking anything)

This is accomplished through trials which test or reveal the stage of which your faith has been developed. in which you can take joy!

******* So your ability to persevere is fuelled by Faith!**

1:2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

******* So Faith in action is called perseverance!**

James 2:8 But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

So Perseverance is the means to accomplish the work of building our lives into maturity and wholeness ... the verb per·se·vere means To persist in, or remain constant to a purpose, idea, or task in the face of obstacles or discouragement.

So Perseverance is necessary in the journey toward mature faith: Because Success is incremental. Perseverance is maintaining pace the harder and more challenging it gets. and it does not get harder than wht those who have preceded us have persevered through...

HEB 11:1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for..NIV

Maintaining pace for long periods of time and not seeing results but believing it will be attained ...is as challenging an obstacle as it gets!

- **YetWe are in a long line of historical persevering saints whose confidence was in God's plan for their lives while never seeing the fullness of that plan be accomplished in their lives is the hard work of faith!...**
- **our work is to align ourselves with these who know how to persevere!! These ancient heroes did this...and so ought we!!!...**
- **Now...is a present tense word...the time is now for us to do it!!**
- **these ancients were certain of God's word being true...even when there was no visible evidence of it yet in the natural...all the way up to the end of their lives! ..**

So you must count the cost... or another words be willing to fund the journey to completion! which means to make the necessary changes needed to continue my commitment to accomplish what I am trying to build...time, resources, energy....

Luke 14 28 "But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? 29 Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you.NLT

- **This person had enough money to lay a foundation only... but a foundation by itself gains you nothing! but ridicule...**

But that failure can have an upside...if you perservere...you learn to slow down and plan better for your next build!

- **You learn some discipline...and discipline is always painful but productive**

Hebrews 12:11 No **discipline** seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Perseverance requires self discipline...and discipline must be taught to us! so discipline trains us to persevere! ... to become trained by it!
Overnight success or first time success is seriously rare. Success comes after the lessons learned from many failures ...“Perseverance is going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.

Why? the more you persevere, the more you trust in God, because you understand how limited your power, control and understanding is... the greater this understanding the better able you are to make wise choices.... and those wise choices are really to do all things God's way!!

“When you fear Missing out on what God has for you...More than your fears...you will persevere!

- **Fear is what keeps one from taking that risk... Fear is the enemy of perseverance...**
- **Why? well what does Fear of criticism (people), fear of another failure, fear of the past (our history) and fear of the future... head the list of perserverance killers...**

What does persevering in faith look like? it looks like being a Joshua one of the ancients!

- **Joshua after living 40 years in the desert with Moses... he persevered a long time...learned a lot, grew in faith and action... ...Remember it was the promised land...the land promised to them by God forty years earlier to Moses ...yet up to this point not one inch of the promised land...have they possessed.**
- **Yet As a people individuals they had moved from 400 years of slavery to 40 years of freedom. they made many mistakes, some huge failures and some great accomplishments... and this time of persevering in freedom...prepared them for the next leg of their journey.**

- **and Joshua would be tasked with leading the Israelites into the promise land... he was in the age bracket between 68-78 years old...he had never led the Israelites before, though he was a leader in his tribe, and had spied out the promised land 38 years previously and gave a thumbs up to going after it...which is vastly different from actually go after it!**
- **a whole new level of faith in action, which is called perseverance along with many new obstacles which would need great courage and faith to overcome...lay ahead of him and them.**
- **They would need to go to the next level as the daily mana and quail would be ending as they would enter Canaan...a land already settled... they had not been a settled people before..... now they would possess their own land...so many new changes they were about to embark upon... They would own homes, and property...live in their own society ...amongst other societies**
- **all new to them...under a new inexperienced leader.**
- **It was a new season in their lives...Their faith and perseverance would need to grow!**
- **And they were terrified... you know anything we experience new...creates fear in us...it is something we have not known before...it is new...**

New is different ...different is scary...even good changes are scary for they have **imposing new obstacles which must be overcome...!**

What Joshua needed to know when he was about to enter into the next level of persevering on the way to success..., is the same truths we need to embrace as we journey forward...

In the very first chapter we find Joshua was praying... communicating with God...he knew God and was talking to the Lord...and here is a truth..."you will walk with God if you talk with God"

- **Prayer is our highest and most effective use of energy... is the contemplation of the facts of life from the highest point of view...God's**

- **Prayer puts us in contact with God and places us in the position to receive his perspective and guidance....**

NLT JOS 1: 1 After the death of Moses the LORD's servant, the LORD spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant. He said, 2 "Moses my servant is dead. Therefore, the time has come for you to lead these people, the Israelites, across the Jordan River into the land I am giving them. 3 I promise you what I promised Moses: 'Wherever you set foot, you will be on land I have given you— 4 from the Negev wilderness in the south to the Lebanon mountains in the north, from the Euphrates River in the east to the Mediterranean Sea^[a] in the west, including all the land of the Hittites.' 5 No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you.

JOS 1:6 "Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. 7 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. 8 Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. 9 This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

For Joshua to succeed this is what he must persevere in doing!...

- **Believe The Lord would be with you like he was with Moses...Joshua saw this in action for forty years...that is his human example of God's faithfulness...God will be with him just like that....believe it because you have seen it! I am not asking you to believe on that which you have seen and experience...**
- **Obey God's command him given 3x to be strong and courageous...**

- why? to persevere he would need to be strong and courageous...because his fears will seek to make him quit...and if he did he would overcome his fears...
- He is told to obey the word revealed to Moses and written down...meditate on it daily ...and he would be successful! and he will be successful why?
- And know this Joshua what I am calling you to do and where I am sending you I will be with you all the way... the promised result ...you will prosper and succeed

Only three things could defeat him... the same that can derail him from the faith to persevere to the finish..

1. Being Afraid...which has the idea of Being terrified... scared stiff...a mind set or outlook so fearful as to become frozen... immobile consumed with catastrophic imaginations....focusing our thoughts on the absolute worse that could ever possibly happen. Meditating on the wrong messages
 - Fear is the father of missed opportunities and the grandfather of regret...first you miss the opportunity then you regret it...perseverance is the antidote
 - **And Fear of criticism (people), fear of failure, fear of the past (our history), fear we cant do it, fear of succeeding in the future, these head the list of perseverance killers...**

2) Giving into discouragement...being able to be deterred...talked out of moving forward either by words or hindering circumstances or opposition...losing courage

- Forgetting God was with Him..... thinking he was alone or had to do it in his own strength
- **Hope is what keeps one moving forward...a heart that says I do not want to miss out by not stepping out.**
- **Perserverance is what enables one to understand that failures, mistakes and setbacks are a part of success.**

- **Each one of us is on the next step of our personal development don't give up before reaching the goal...and know much learning and change must occur in the journey on the way to the destination...**

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