

Flourishing in the Kingdom – Endurance, Perseverance

The Kingdom and the Covenant, Session 3.5

Key Greek Words

- *hypomone* (Gk, n): the internal strength to withstand hardship or stress with courage; endurance; perseverance
- *hypomeno* (Gk, v):
 - (1) to remain, stay behind, stay in place
 - Acts 17:14, “The brothers immediately sent Paul to the coast, but Silas and Timothy stayed (*hypomeno*) at Berea.”
 - (2) to endure, stand firm, persevere

Bible Study

- God’s endurance/perseverance
 - Ro 15:5, “May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus....”
 - “endurance” (Gk, n, *hypomone*)
- Jesus’ endurance/perseverance
 - 2 Th 3:5, “May the Lord direct your hearts into God’s love and Christ’s perseverance.”
 - perseverance (Gk, n, *hypomone*)
 - How did Jesus’ interaction with the religious leaders require him to persevere?
 - Heb 12:2-3, ² “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”
 - “endured” (Gk, v, *hypomeno*)
- Our endurance/perseverance
 - Lk 8:15, “But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.”
 - “persevering” (Gk, n, *hypomone*)
 - Lk 11:9, “... Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”
 - Greek present imperative: “keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking.”
 - Lk 18:1, “Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.”
 - “give up” (Gk, v, *enkakeo*): to become discouraged or disheartened
 - How does this relate to perseverance?
 - 1 Co 13:7, Love “always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”
 - “perseveres” (Gk, v, *hypomeno*)

- Love focuses on the well-being and benefit of the other person, so why does love persevere?
- How does this apply to our relationship with God?
- Heb 12:7, “Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?”
 - “endure hardship” (Gk, v, *hypomeno*)
 - “discipline” (Gk, n, *paideia*): primarily relates to training children to conform to acceptable attitudes & behavior
 - Does God afflict us with hardship?
- 1 Pet 2:20c-21, ²⁰ “But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.”
 - “endure” (Gk, v, *hypomeno*)
 - According to verse 21, to what were we called?
 - Do we have to endure opposition, attacks, persecution from people for doing what God considers good?
- Benefits of endurance/perseverance
 - Mt 10:22, “All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.”
 - Mt 24:12-13, ¹² “Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³ but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.”
 - “stands firm” (Gk, v, *hypomeno*)
 - What’s the benefit of standing firm to the end?
 - What is “the end” in these verses?
 - 2 Tim 2:12, “... if we endure, we will also reign with him.”
 - “endure” (Gk, v, *hypomeno*)
 - Benefit for enduring?
 - 1 Pet 1:6-7, ⁶ “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”
 - Benefits for enduring grief and trials?
 - Jas 1:2-4, ² “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”
 - “perseverance” (Gk, n, *hypomone*)
 - Benefit for persevering?
 - Rev 3:10, “Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.”
 - “endure patiently” (Gk, n, *hypomone*)
 - Benefit for enduring?

- We experience kingdom benefits by aggressively using kingdom authority & resources to forcefully overthrow opposition and destroy obstacles, which requires endurance & perseverance
- Developing endurance/perseverance
 - 2 Pet 1:5-7, ⁵ “For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.”
 - “make every effort to add ... perseverance”
 - “perseverance” (Gk, n, *hypomone*)
 - How high a priority should developing endurance/perseverance be to us?
 - Ro 5:3, “Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance.”
 - “perseverance” (Gk, n, *hypomone*)
 - What can we choose to do and why, according to this verse?
 - Col 1:11, “... being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience....”
 - “endurance” (Gk, n, *hypomone*)
 - What is the source of our endurance according to this verse?
 - What have we talked about that authorizes God to give it to us?
 - 1 Th 1:3, “We continually remember before our God and Father ... your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - “endurance” (Gk, n, *hypomone*)
 - According to this verse, what inspires us to endure?
 - “hope” (Gk, n, *elpis*): confident expectation or anticipation
 - Jas 1:3, “because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.”
 - What develops our perseverance, according to this verse?
 - What is “the testing of your faith?”
 - Don’t wait for kingdom of heaven to be dropped in your lap
 - Faith makes things possible; perseverance makes them happen
 - Perseverance produces eternal benefits, not just temporal results

Questions

- How does God’s perseverance affect our covenant relationship with him?
- How is our perseverance relevant to our activity in the kingdom?
- How is perseverance relevant to our interaction with evil spirits?

Conclusions

- Benefits for enduring, persevering:
 - *sozo* – salvation, deliverance, protection
 - we’ll reign with Jesus
 - proves our faith is genuine
 - develops our character – maturity & completeness
 - we won’t receive God’s anger on the world system