

The Kingdom Of God Pt 5

Prepared by: Pastor Blaine G. Smith

MightyFortressChurch.org

Scripture Study

The Law Of Perseverance

We have all heard the story of the chick and the egg. As the chick approaches full growth within the egg this safe environment where the chick feels complete and protected suddenly becomes a threat to it's life. Every living thing God created must grow. As the chick begins trying to escape it also gains strength as each hour passes. This struggle in turn prepares it for the new harsh environment that will soon become it's home. People have tried to assist the chick's escape from the shell. But by interrupting God's process they unknowingly rob the chick of it's life. Without the perseverance the chick doesn't have the strength to live in it's new environment. We can see this same law at work in our physical bodies as well. If we want to increase our strength we must push against resistance and as a result we become just a little stronger. If we do this consistently over a long period of time we become a lot stronger. Jesus taught that perseverance would bring forth the harvest. "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." (Luke 8:15)

Matthew 7:7-11

7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

8 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

9 "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?

10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?

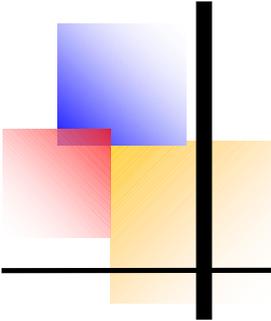
11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! (NIV)

✠ The translation would be more accurate if translated like this. Keep asking and it will be given to you; keep seeking and you will find; keep knocking and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who keeps on asking receives; he who keeps on seeking finds; and to him who keeps on knocking, the door will be opened. This asking, seeking and knocking is not a license for unbelief. Begging and pleading with God never works. We must be persistent in our faith, thanksgiving and praise. We must fight the good fight of faith. It is not necessary to talk God into keeping His Word. We must be willing to stand on the Word of God for however long it takes to receive the promise.

Matthew 11:12

From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it. (NIV)

✠ I remind you that God is not our obstacle in life. He is not standing in our way trying to block our every move. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out who the obstacle is. We must use perseverance against the adversary.



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Luke 18:1-8

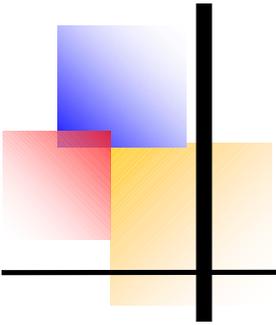
1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.
2 He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men.
3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'
4 "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men,
5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!'"
6 And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says.
7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?
8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?" (NIV)

✠ God is not the unjust judge. This is a lesson in perseverance. It is not the resistance in and of itself that causes growth, it is what we do with the resistance that causes growth. Spiritually we become just like the chick in the egg. At different times in our life we find ourselves in places of comfort and security. If we stay in that place too long we won't grow. If we are not growing, that place of comfort and security becomes a threat to our spiritual life. God wants us to develop by taking the next step in life. We are to be patient, to hold on, to persist, to pray and not give up.

Luke 11:5-8

5 And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves;
6 For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?
7 And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.
8 I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. (KJV)

✠ The NIV says "because of the man's boldness he will get up." A timid spirit won't get you very far in this life nor in the kingdom of God. We must use everything God has given us to its very limit before He will provide more. God doesn't bless lazy, inconsistent, half hearted Christians. He is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him.



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The Law Of Responsibility

The law of responsibility works hand in hand with all the previously mentioned laws. Without this law the others will not work to their full potential. Rejection and neglect of this law leads to punishment.

Luke 12:46-48

46 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

47 "That servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows.

48 But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked. (NIV)

✠ To whom much is given, much is required. Once God gives gifts and callings He won't change His mind. You will be judged by what you do with the abilities that you have been given.

Romans 11:29

for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. (NIV)

James 3:1

My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. (KJV)

Proverbs 6:6-11

6 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; Consider her ways, and be wise:

7 Which having no chief, Overseer, or ruler,

8 Provideth her bread in the summer, And gathereth her food in the harvest.

9 How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? When wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?

10 (Yet) a little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep:

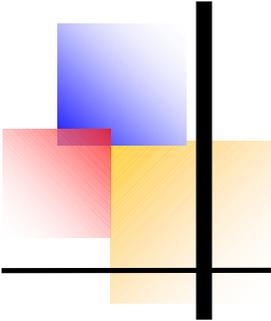
11 So shall thy poverty come as a robber, And thy want as an armed man. (ASV)

Proverbs 10:26

As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him. (KJV)

Proverbs 13:4

The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat. (KJV)



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Proverbs 20:4

The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing. (KJV)

Sluggard - A slothful person; an idler, lazy.

✠ It seems fitting to look at a sluggard because he is irresponsible in all he does and with all he has been given. The reward of the sluggard is something to avoid.

Proverbs 18:9

He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster. (KJV)

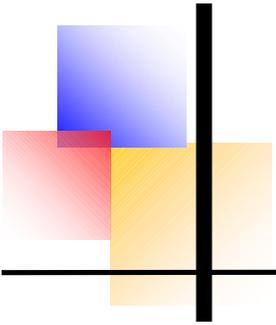
✠ Squandering the things of God will put you in the class of a waster and a slothful person.

1 Timothy 3:1-7

1 Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task.
2 Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,
3 not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.
4 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.
5 (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)
6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.
7 He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. (NIV)

Matthew 24:45-51

45 "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time?
46 It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.
47 I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.
48 But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,'
49 and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards.
50 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of.
51 He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (NIV)



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Luke 16:10-12

10 "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.

11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?

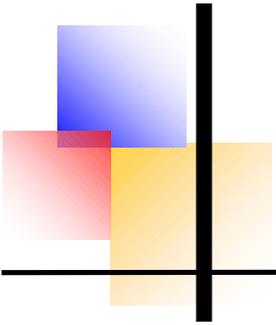
12 And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own? (NIV)

1 Corinthians 4:2

Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. (KJV)

- ✠ Discipline yourself to be a faithful steward, even over small seemingly unimportant matters. If we are faithful over a little we will be trusted with much. Remember when much is given, much is required. In order to be responsible it will take wisdom, faithfulness, diligence, honor, integrity and good stewardship.

Note: As you read the extra blessing make note of the perseverance of Daniel. Daniel's request was heard on the first day. So why did it take 3 weeks for him to get an answer? The prince of the air resisted the messenger. Michael was called on to help overcome the resistance. As you read Ephesians 6:12 you can see there is still a wrestling.



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Study Questions

1. The devil won't resist you when you are in God's perfect will. T or F.
2. Complete the following verse. "From the days of ..."
3. Why did Jesus give His disciples the parable in Luke 18:1-8?
4. Expound on Luke 12:46-48.
5. Summarize Matthew 24:45-51.
6. Share one thing God showed you concerning perseverance.
7. Share one thing God showed you concerning responsibility.
8. What did God reveal to you as you studied?

Extra Blessing

(Study To Show Yourself Approved Unto God 2 Timothy 2:15)

Daniel Chapter 10

Ephesians 6:12-18