

Most Sports Equipment

- Exercise Bicycles
- Weight Machines
- Bicycles
- You can buy used in very good shape.
- People want to exercise, buy the best then find out it is harder than thought.
- The initial interest fades with effort.
- *“When the going gets tough...”*
- *“No Pain ... No Gain”*

Perseverance – Endures

- **The initial fire, zeal, and excitement can last for years, months, or just a few weeks.**
- **No way to predict when or how, but sooner or later something changes.**
- **Jesus spoke of this issue as it relates to the subjects of His kingdom in the parable of the sower.**

- *And he that was sown upon the rocky places, hears the word, and straightway with joy receives it; 21 yet he has he no root in himself, but endures for a while; and when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, straightway he stumbles. Mt. 13:20-21*
- *... when they have heard, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. Lk. 8:12-13*

Perseverance Changes Everything

- *And the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with **perseverance**. Lk.
8:15*
- **PERSEVERANCE** is God's gift to overcome the danger of falling away.

What is Perseverance?

- “*hupomeno*... 2. *to remain* i.e. *abide*, not recede or flee; ... *to persevere*: ...under misfortunes and trials to hold fast to one's faith in Christ...
b. *to endure bravely, bear bravely* and *calmly*: ...” (Thayer, p. 644; 5278)

Perseverance

- “*hupomone*... 1. *steadfastness, constancy, endurance*... in the NT the characteristic of a man who is **unswerved from his deliberate purpose and loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings**... 2. a **patient, steadfast waiting for**... 3. a **patient enduring, sustaining**...” (Thayer, p. 644; 5281)

2 Tiers – Perseverance

- **We Become Aware: This will not be EASY**
- **Count the Cost (Virtue)**
- **Gain the knowledge: It is not STRANGE!**
- *Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, 1 Peter 4:12-13*
- **It is normal for the going to get tough!**

2 Tiers – Perseverance

- As we add self-control the pain becomes:
- 1st Acceptable and Normal
- 2nd Desirable, Necessary ... Important
- As we compare it to sports we see the value of pushing the limits and gaining power and control.

Perseverance

- *My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. Indeed **we count them blessed** who **endured**(hupomone). You have heard of the **perseverance**(hupomone) of Job and **seen the end intended** by the Lord-- that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful. Jas. 5:11*

Perseverance of Job

- The issue: whether he had perseverance.
- *Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. 21 And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord." Job 1:20*
- *In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong. Job 1:22*

Perseverance of Job

- Job then lost health, reputation, wife's support
- All alone, his three "friends" refused to comfort and only condemned him
- Left with no answers, no relief, no comforter
- This is *perseverance*!
- Satan didn't think he had it. God knew he did!
- Job suffered for a purpose,
- Though, then, he did not know what it was.
- We know what it was! Jesus showed us that God can't build a hedge around us if we are to do the work of evangelism— let our light shine.

Adding Perseverance

- There is no easy way! We have to face Trials.
- *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces **patience(hupomone)**. 4 But let **patience(hupomone)** have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*

Jas. 1:2-6

Sign: We are Adding Perseverance

● In the Midst of Pain: JOY

- *Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; 2 through whom also we have had our access by faith into this grace wherein we stand; and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only so, but we also **rejoice in our tribulations**: knowing that tribulation works **perseverance** 4 and **perseverance** approvedness; and approvedness, hope: Rom. 5:1-4*

Tribulations work Perseverance

- “*katergazomai*... a. to perform, accomplish, achieve... b. to work out... i.e. to do that from which something results... bring about, result in,...”
(Thayer, 2716)

● Perseverance works Approvedness

“*dokimos* as an adj. both of person and object thus denotes a. “*tested in battle,*” “*reliable,*” “*trustworthy,*” b. a man who is “*tested, significant, recognized, esteemed, worthy*” ... or an object which is tested, genuine or valuable... it is particularly used of metals,... (Kittel 1382)

Perseverance: Joy in the Grief of Trials

● *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 1Pet. 1:6-8*

The Great Cloud of Witnesses

● Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance(hupomone) the race that is set before ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured(hupomeno) the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ For consider Him who has endured(hupomeno) such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart Heb. 12:1-3

Gaining Patience

- *For you have need of **endurance(hupomone)**, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: 37 “For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.” 39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul. Heb. 10:36-39*
- *If you faint in the day of adversity, Your strength is small. Pr. 24:10*

Perseverance / Endurance = Reign

- *Therefore I endure(hupomeno) all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. 11 This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. 12 If we endure(hupomeno), We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. 13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself. 14 Remind them of these things*
2Tim. 2:10-14
- The rewards are far greater than the Pain and Loss