

Setting. Help – John Brown Parting Counsels, pages 84-93.

I - Patience / Perseverance - is God's grace and our duty.

This grace of perseverance we receive from God. John 15:5. Remember the Lord's prayer.

It is vital to our disposition that we need grace: 1 Cor 10:12.

Rom 15:3-5 - It is described and communicated to our minds in the Scriptures. We find it in Job (James 5:11). We find it perfectly and preeminently in the Lord Jesus: Heb 12:3. It is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23).

Perseverance must continue throughout our lives to the end: Matt 10:22; 24:13.

II - The challenges to perseverance.

Rom 5:3-4; James 1:2-4. The common truth in both of these passages? #1 – the call to rejoice in our trials (James). Paul says we do. #2 – the reason for this joy – these trials actually produce perseverance.

We must persevere because of trials. Job 14:1; John 16:33; Acts 14:22; 2 Tim 3:12; (1Peter 2:21)

III - The practice of perseverance.

A- The wrong way of dealing with our trials:

"Stupid insensibility"      "Sullen unsubmitiveness"      "Proud stubbornness"  
"Hopeless despondency"      Spiritual near-sightedness.

B -The right way of dealing with our trials: Have the right mindset:

Remember the sovereignty of God (Deut 8:2-3).      Look for it in the Word.

Remember that God has promised grace in Christ.      Pray for grace.

1. Do not be taken by surprise.
2. Expect strengthened assurance (Rom 5:3b-5).
3. But you must expect troubles.
4. Feel it. Do not think that feeling the pain of trials is sub-Christian.
5. Seek for the specific trials you experience in the Word.
6. You will need a persistent use of the means of grace.
7. Maintain faith that all our sufferings have an end.