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Persistence - Success - Enduring

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A testimony was given by a young mother regarding her pregnancy and the birth of her daughter. The doctors for months had indicated to her that the child she was carrying did not have the proper bone structure forming in her body to be of normal size. Ultrasounds that were being taken every two weeks showed the baby was not developing as she should. They had advised her that it would be best for her and the child that she abort her before delivery. The young mother being a believer and knowing that much prayer had been offered regarding this pregnancy refused, stood in faith that God would come through for her and the infant. On the day that a c-section was to be performed a final ultrasound was taken showing that nothing had changed, but upon delivery, the baby was in perfect condition, the bones were the size they needed to be and the doctors and other staff were amazed, saying that it was indeed a miracle. The young mother had refused to believe the negative reports, had stayed focused, even though it was not easy. Her persistent and enduring faith had given her the success of delivering a healthy baby girl.

Jonah 2:8-9 "They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. 9 But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord." KJV

Jonah was in the belly of the fish, a type of "holding pen", however, he repented of his disobedience and because God will give second and third chances, he began to give thanksgiving and the fish spit him out on dry ground. God gives us a season, even in disobedience, for repentance. Faith always gives thanksgiving in the midst of adversity if we believe in God.

Jonah was not consumed by the adversity that surrounded him, he began to consider the promises of God, and he prayed knowing that God had heard him. He kept focused on God. This is exactly what the young mother had done; she was not consumed with the negative reports, but kept focused on God and what His word told her. They both had their miracles.

Roman 4:19 "And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he

was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:" KJV

Abraham was strong in faith, giving glory to God, being fully persuaded what God had promised He was able to perform.

Persistence is another word for success. Some believers never learn how to be persistent or to endure.

If we do what we don't want to do, when we don't want to do it, we will be able to do, what we want to do, when we want to do it.

Deut 11:21 That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the Lord swore unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth." KJV

There is training and discipline involved and as we follow Jesus and the plan of God, our days on earth will be as heaven on the earth, stepping over into the arena of faith. The arena of our five senses or the arena of circumstances. God wants to reward us when we seek Him.

Paul, Joseph and Daniel all showed persistence. Jonah had faults but he learned to trust God. The three Hebrew children were delivered because they chose to believe God.

2 Tim 4:6-7 "For I am already about to be sacrificed [my life is about to be poured out as a drink offering]; the time of my [spirit's] release [from the body] is at hand and I will soon go free. 7 I have fought the good (worthy, honorable, and noble) fight, I have finished the race, I have kept (firmly held) the faith" AMP

Paul is talking in 2 Timothy that he realizes his life on earth is almost over. He is looking back over his life. He had given his best, no regrets; he had developed persistence and endurance. Sustaining power day by day had given him the ability to finish the course.

In chapters 3, 4 and 6 of Hebrews tells about finishing the course. Hebrews is written to a group of people wanting to quit, go back under the law. They were more comfortable living this way, knowing what was required of them, as the children of Israel had in Egypt, they had boundaries set for them and they did not know how to live otherwise. Did not know how to live by faith, believing what God had said. Paul was telling them to hold fast their confidence.

Heb 10:35-36 " Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.³⁶ For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise" KJV

The story of Daniel in the lion's den, was a result of his refusing to bow down to the king of Babylon. Evil men wanted to destroy him because of the favor that he had with the king. The plan was devised that he should be thrown to the lions, since the den was considered a place of judgment, the king was reluctant, but because the order had been given was unable to change it. The king knew that Daniel's god would deliver him. Daniel was getting older, but he still being persecuted because of his faith, believing God he continued to pray three times a day and being thrown to the lions was the result. .

Dan 6:23-24 "Then was the king exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God. 24 And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den." KJV

The king was so concerned about Daniel's well being that he was unable to sleep, he ordered the evil men to be cast into the den. Daniel didn't cast away his confidence in the lion's den, he knew that God would deliver him. God delivered him from the lions, not from the den. Jonah got his confidence back in the belly of the whale, his den.

Dan 6:27 "He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions." KJV

God will be with us in trouble and deliver us out of it all, many times it is in adversity or trouble we learn to develop patience, patience is that quality that doesn't surrender to circumstances nor yield to trials or adversity, it is always associated with hope and is the opposite of despondency, patience doesn't give up. It just keeps believing God. God turns situations around.

Deut 23:5 "Nevertheless the Lord thy God would not hearken unto Balaam; but the Lord thy God turned the curse into a blessing unto thee, because the Lord thy God loved thee." KJV

Rom 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." KJV

Phil 3:13-19 " I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.

15-16 So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision—you'll see it yet! Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it. 17-19 Stick with me, friends. Keep track of those you see running this same course, headed for this same goal. There are many out there taking other paths, choosing other goals, and trying to get you to go along with them. I've warned you of them many times; sadly, I'm having to do it again. All they want is easy street. They hate Christ's Cross. But easy street is a dead-end street. Those who live there make their bellies their gods; belches are their praise; all they can think of is their appetites." MESSAGE

Jesus is the only way for deliverance, He is the only way to the Father, He is the only way to have true salvation. There is no other way. Any other way is called deception, seducing spirits or doctrine of devils. The closer that it comes to the return of Jesus the more we will be faced with seducing spirits.

Matt 15:22-28 "And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil 23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. 24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. 26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. 27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. 28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour." KJV

The woman from Canaan was being persistent and enduring regarding her daughter; she refused to be sent away, she had heard about Jesus and knew that He could heal. This lady was not someone that was entitled to any blessings, she was considered an outcast. This woman determined her outcome, she asks for help, she worshiped Jesus, she was not offended, and she spoke with faith. Jesus recognized her faith and told her that her daughter was made whole.

Persistence will bring enable us to receive the supernatural, not giving up or becoming offended.

(The spirit of God spoke the following)

1 Cor 12:28 "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues." KJV

There are three gifts mentioned in this scripture miracle, gifts of healings and helps.

Standing before God how will we answer Him regarding what we did with helps, were we faithful and committed to the man of God that called us to help build the church? Helps are as supernatural as miracles or healings. We need to find out where we can be helping in order to increase the kingdom of God.

God is so good, looking how He can bless us. His grace and mercy, He is just good. He is encouraging us to do what our purpose is here in this life. He is not concerned where we have been, but is concerned where we are now. People are concerned about the past, God says we don't have a past, because of the blood of Jesus; the blood doesn't just cover our sin, but blots it out.