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Learning Persistence And Endurance

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When God calls us to do something, it is always greater than our ability, but He has already made provision for us through the Lord Jesus Christ. His word teaches us how to go in and possess whatever it might be. God has done the giving and we are to receive the blessings from it. It is through the faith principle involved that we are able to do this.

Joshua 1:11 "Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the Lord your God giveth you to possess it." KJV

Deut 11: 23-24,31 "Then will the Lord drive out all these nations from before you, and ye shall possess greater nations and mightier than yourselves. 24 Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even unto the uttermost sea shall your coast be. 31 For ye shall pass over Jordan to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God giveth you, and ye shall possess it, and dwell therein." KJV

God has made provision for us to receive all that He has provided, many times when we have prayed and have not seen results immediately, we tend to begin to doubt that we have really heard from God, but God is working for us behind the scenes. We don't know how to continue to serve Him, thinking maybe it is not the will of God. This is where learning persistence and endurance must become a part of our lives.

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

Heb 10:35-36 "Do not, therefore, fling away your fearless confidence, for it carries a great *and* glorious compensation of reward. 36 For you have need of steadfast patience and endurance, so that you may perform and fully accomplish the will of God, and thus receive and carry away [and enjoy to the full] what is promised." AMP

Paul is teaching the Hebrews that God is faithful and not to quit in their walk, but hang on to their confidence and don't cast it away, in order to receive the reward that is promised to them. We will have this same reward if we don't cast away our confidence or patience. Patience is defined as "doesn't surrender to circumstances or trials, it doesn't give in, it is always the opposite of despondency and is always associated with hope" True confidence is fearless.

What do we do when things begin to get difficult? There is a season that we will all go through, learning how to develop endurance and patience in our lives. How are we able to access the boundless measure of grace that has been provided? This will be done by faith, shouting out praise, standing before the door that has been opened and accepting what God has already done for us, even if we are experiencing troubles. We must not give up, but we must be convinced of the truth of the Word of God.

Rom 5:2-4 "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; 4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:" KJV

Rom 5:2-4 "Through Him also we have [our] access (entrance, introduction) by faith into this grace (state of God's favor) in which we [firmly and safely] stand. And let us rejoice *and* exult in our hope of experiencing *and* enjoying the glory of God. 3 Moreover [let us also be full of joy now!] let us exult *and* triumph in our troubles *and* rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that pressure *and* affliction *and* hardship produce patient *and* unswerving endurance. 4 And endurance (fortitude) develops maturity of character (approved faith and tried integrity). And character [of this sort] produces [the habit of] joyful and confident hope of eternal salvation." AMP

Rom 5:2-4 "By entering through faith into what God has always wanted to do for us—set us right with him, make us fit for him—we have it all together with God because of our Master Jesus. And that's not all: We throw open our doors to God and discover at the same moment that he has already thrown open his door to us. We find ourselves standing where we always hoped we might stand—out in the wide open spaces of God's grace and glory, standing tall and shouting our praise. There's more to come: We continue to shout our praise even when we're hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next. In alert expectancy such as this, we're never left feeling shortchanged. Quite the contrary—we can't round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit!" MESSAGE

An example was given of some birds rebuilding their nests, after being removed in order to paint a house; they were persistent in their job to rebuild the nest and refused to give up. When the painting was finished it was noted that there was a nest, the bottom half was painted and the top half was not. They had "staked" out their territory, refusing to give in. We all have a purpose like the birds, and in order to accomplish our mission we will encounter difficulty along the way. We cannot give in, we must stand our ground, staking our claim. The enemy will attempt to "drive" us off, but we have to know that we have authority over him and not allow him to do this.

Staking our claim, how do we do it? What will our claim say? Jesus has already paid the price and we must realize that regardless of what our past is all about, we need to "stake" our claim, refusing to be drawn back into self-condemnation or rejection. What is it we want to see changed in our lives? Our families to be saved, healing in our bodies, financial freedom, freedom from guilt, rearing our children as the Word teaches us, freedom from addictions.

Standing our ground will be done by having faith and speaking to the situation or mountain, having the God kind of faith. The God kind of faith makes a declaration; we must declare what is ours. Faith is now and brings reality to hope. Hope is always in the future and is a favorable outcome.

Heb 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." KJV

Mark 11:22-24 "And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. 23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. 24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." KJV

The mountain of adversity must be spoken to by us, this is where the enemy will come against

us, trying to make us quit, not wanting us to speak against the thing that is trying to put us down. We must learn how to stand or drive our stake where the enemy is concerned, we do that by quoting the Word, saying what Jesus did for us and knowing who and what we have in Jesus, that we are more than over comers.

Eph 6:12 "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." KJV

John 10:10 "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." KJV

The following scriptures tell of Jairus who approached Jesus regarding his daughter who was at the point of death, asking that Jesus come and pray for her. Jairus made a declaration of faith, stating that if Jesus would come to his house, she would live and not die. However, along the way, there were distractions, which could have caused him to be upset and deprived him of his blessing, but he forgave the woman with the issue of blood and continued to believe what Jesus had told him, that his daughter would live. As they approached his house, the people there said that she had died, but Jesus told him "do not be afraid, only believe". Jesus spoke to her and she was raised from death. What would have happened if Jairus had not held his ground?

Jesus had acknowledged the woman with the issue of blood and because of her standing her ground, saying that if she could touch his garment she would be healed and putting her faith into action, she had been healed.

Mark 5:22-42 "And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet, 23 And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live. 24 And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him. 25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, 26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, 27 When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. 28 For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. 29 And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. 30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes? 31 And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? 32 And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing. 33 But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth. 34 And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague. 35 While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further? 36 As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe. 37 And he suffered no man to follow him, save Peter, and James, and John the brother of James. 38 And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly. 39 And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth. 40 And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying. 41 And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise. 42 And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment. " KJV

Mark 5:36 "*Overhearing* but ignoring what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, Do not be seized with alarm and struck with fear; only keep on believing." AMP

God gives the promise and the enemy will fight us, the promises must be taken by force, declaring what has been given to us. We cannot allow fear to become a part of our life or the situation that we might be encountering; we must drive our stake, stand on the word and speak to the situation. God's grace is sufficient for us, we must keep fear at bay with the Word, and begin taking our stand and speaking the declaration of what has been provided for us.

Matt 11:12 "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." KJV

Following the service a word of encouragement was spoken to the congregation: "Jairus' daughter was dead, that was a fact, the crowd wasn't saying a thing, and they weren't ridiculing Jesus for something that wasn't real. The fact that some of you may be facing something bad, that may be a fact, but Jesus demonstrated that fact is subject to change, but truth is not, so drive that stake, don't let something from the past try to determine your future because God's word is truth."