

## The Fruit of Perseverance

James 1:12 promises us, "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him."

How many times have you and I faced challenges (trials) in our lives where we could have had victory (blessing) instead of defeat, if we had just persevered?

We are living in a day and time when it appears that whenever perseverance is required, we do not want to pay the price, thus we walk in defeat without God's blessing.

I am reminded of the persistent widow in Luke 18:1-8 who persevered in her plea to the judge, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' Because of her perseverance the judge finally said, 'because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice.' If she had not persevered she would not have received her justice (blessing). Likewise, God, as our judge, will bring about justice (blessing) quickly to those who love Him and persevere in their pursuit of righteousness.

When we study God's Word we should be very impressed with Biblical history that further emphasizes the fruit of perseverance. What happened to the children of Israel who failed to persevere versus those who did? Those who trusted God and persevered ultimately crossed over into the Promised Land (Canaan). Those who didn't died in the wilderness without ever receiving the promised blessing from God.

Life is full of opportunities for victory or defeat. What makes the difference is our choices. Are we willing to count the cost and persevere until the victory comes? Or will we fail to press in and by that failure, live in defeat without receiving God's blessings. If you and I had not persevered in accepting Christ as our personal Savior we would not have possessed the promise of eternal life with Christ.

James 1:3,4 tells us that "The testing of our faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that we may be mature and complete, not lacking in anything." Through the testing of our faith we learn to persevere. The end result of trusting in God is completeness in Christ and blessings from God.

Paul said in Philippians 3:7-14 to consider everything as loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus as Lord. Like Paul, we must forget what is behind and persevere toward what is ahead, pressing on toward the goal to win the prize (blessing) for which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus.

If we truly love Him, we will persevere in our daily walk with Him whatever the cost. When we commit ourselves to follow Him who has chosen us and persevere in glorifying Him through our personal lives, we will walk in victory, and as promised in James 1:12, we will receive the fruit of our perseverance, the crown of life (blessing).