

Introduction: There are two points we learned from the last message. First, a joyful attitude while enduring a trial. Second, an understanding mind, and today we will look more at this second point. And then begin to look at the other points in our text about persevering in trials.

1. KNOWING

- 1.1. Knowing comes from the idea of understanding something beyond mere knowledge. Even pagans have some understanding about creation and God. Romans 1:19-21 **“Because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”**
- 1.2. As Christians we know from personal experience that the testing of our faith produces patience. Another translation of the word can be endurance. Many have endured suffering, affliction and testing, only to find their faith and trust stronger.
- 1.3. Patiently enduring trials while trusting the Lord, develops endurance which is a lasting quality. Patience is needed during the trial, but endurance is lasting beyond the trial. Psalms 40:1-2 **“I waited patiently for the Lord; And He inclined to me and heard my cry. He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay, And He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm.”** 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4 **“We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is *only* fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater; therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure.”**
- 1.4. These faithful brethren endured in what we call the perseverance of the saints. From a different perspective it is called the security of the believer. It is God’s provision of security that makes possible His people’s perseverance. We are secure in Christ, therefore, we press on because of this. John 10:29 **“My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father’s hand.”** Psalms 37:28 **“For the Lord loves justice And does not forsake His godly ones; They are preserved forever, But the descendants of the wicked will be cut off.”** Psalms 97:10 **“Hate evil, you who love the Lord, Who preserves the souls of His godly ones...”**

Application: If a person “renounces” their faith, then all this simply proves is they never had genuine saving faith. 1 John 2:19 **“They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.”** The ability to endure to the end, through many trials along the way, is because you KNOW He is faithful and you trust the Father.

2. A SUBMISSIVE WILL

- 2.1. The only way out of a trial is through it. The Lord promises no bypasses, only that He will see His people through it. When we begin to learn that God is not harming us through trials, but only strengthening us, we are motivated to embrace them. Not all of Job's friends had bad advise, Eliphaz said this in Job 5:8-11 **"But as for me, I would seek God, And I would place my cause before God; Who does great and unsearchable things, Wonders without number. He gives rain on the earth And sends water on the fields, So that He sets on high those who are lowly, And those who mourn are lifted to safety."**
- 2.2. There are two results from this. Perfect and complete. Perfect does not mean moral or spiritual perfection or sinlessness, but refers to that which is fully developed. It can be better translated as "mature" and is used in this context in Philippians 3:15 **"Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you."** Complete indicates at the end of a trial you are complete in trust and understanding of God. 1 Peter 5:10 **"After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you."**

Application: As Christians we know God is faithful. We also learn that He is faithful as we endure certain trials in our life.

3. A BELIEVING HEART

- 3.1. Let him ask of God. Strong, sound faith is not based on feelings but on knowledge and understanding of God's promises of truth, which is spiritual wisdom. When believers face times of testing we have special need of God's wisdom. And at such times we must remember the words of Solomon in Proverbs 3:5-7 **"Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and turn away from evil."**
- 3.2. Trials should enhance our prayer life and dependance on God. We turn to the Lord for strength and wisdom and we ask God for this. We should do this as we would seek for a great treasure of wealth. Proverbs 2:3-5 **"For if you cry for discernment, Lift your voice for understanding; If you seek her as silver And search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will discern the fear of the Lord, And discover the knowledge of God."** We should be asking God for this!
- 3.3. Further proof is the phrase "let him ask" is an imperative verb. It is not giving personal advise but a divine command. We must seek God in our trials and seek Him like we would a treasure.

Conclusion: I want to close with a few thoughts concerning wisdom and our asking God for it. First, wisdom is not a philosophical speculation, but the pure and peaceable absolutes of God's will revealed in His word. We see this in James 3:13,17 **"Who among you is wise and**

understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom...But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy." Furthermore, only such divine wisdom enables a believer to be joyous and submissive in times of trials.