

The Challenge of Perseverance 5/23/2010

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” Hebrews 12:1

Perseverance: Following God's will for my life despite COUNTER influences.

4 GODLY OPPORTUNITIES TO PERSEVERE . . .

P₃ ERSEVERE IN MY PRAYERS

(Jesus) “Keep on asking, and you will be given what you ask for. Keep on looking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And the door is opened to everyone who knocks. You parents if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him?” Matthew 7:7-11

“Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all Christians everywhere.” Ephesians 6:18

P₃ ERSEVERE IN MY SPIRITUAL GROWTH

“But Peter and John replied, ‘Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than him?’” Acts 4:19

“Take the time and the trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit.” 1 Timothy 4:7

“Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” James 1:4

P₃ ERSEVERE IN TROUBLE

“We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.” Romans 5:3

“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.” Romans 8:28

P₃ ERSEVERE IN INFLUENCING OTHER FOR JESUS

“And remember, the Lord is waiting so that people have time to be saved.” 2 Peter 3:15

“That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are quite small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us an immeasurably great glory

that will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see right now; rather, we look forward to what we have not yet seen. For the troubles we see will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever.” 2

Corinthians 4:16-18