



**Date: October 29, 2023**

**Pastor: Mike Koot**

**Series: Everything We Need**

**Scripture: 2 Peter 1: 3-11**

**Message: Perseverance**

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## 1. Sunday Summary:

This Sunday we continued our sermon series we're calling *Everything We Need*. It's a series about how we grow in grace, and we already have everything we need to do it. However, in spite of that we're called to add virtues to our lives, and when we do, we'll really find the full life Jesus offers us. This week we looked at adding the virtue of perseverance. We looked at three things:

- 1) **The Direction of Perseverance** – If you're not going in the proper direction, it would be foolish to persevere. However, if you are going in the proper direction, you'd be foolish to quit, in spite of the difficulty and suffering often involved in going in that direction (following Jesus).
- 2) **The Why of Perseverance** - In Peter's letters we get a theology of suffering. Suffering is the context for perseverance because it's only in suffering that we need perseverance. But what Peter tells us is that suffering produces good things in us, including but not limited to:
  - a) a more refined, purer faith
  - b) a more perfect hope
  - c) a release from the bondage to sin
  - d) a richer intimacy with Jesus.
- 3) **The How of Perseverance** – in other words how does it get into us, or how do we develop it? First by believing that Jesus is the only one who has the words of eternal life, that it's only in him and through him that we find our way home. Second, we can "keep on" because we serve a God who gets into the suffering with us, and has in fact suffered for us.

## 2. Connecting Questions: (Interactive, life sharing, thought & feeling type stuff)

- Think about and share a time when something unexpected/unforeseen came into your life (an alligator), and made you want to quit something good that you'd started. Were you able to persevere? If so, what helped? If not, why do you think you couldn't persevere?
  
- Think about and share an example of perseverance you've seen or heard about (book, movie, real life story, even a story of your own)? What's so attractive about people who persevere when things get really difficult? Why are we so attracted to stories of perseverance?

- We talked a lot about suffering today. If suffering and persevering through suffering really produces good things in us, why don't more people persevere when things get hard? Why haven't you?
- What from today's message was most helpful for you?

### 3. Truth Questions: (What does the Bible say?)

- Think together about some stories from the Bible where perseverance is highlighted. What are the benefits of perseverance from these stories?
- Read James 1:2-4 together. What is James suggesting here? Do you think it's possible to become "mature and complete" without persevering? Discuss. How might perseverance lead you to a place where you "lack nothing."

### 4. Formation Questions: (Taking it further, How does the Truth change the way I live?)

- What will you do to lean into the virtue of perseverance? What actions will you take to drive the perseverance that Jesus displayed on the cross more into your life?
- How will the adding perseverance to your faith effect your prayer and devotional life this week?

### 5. Resources for Further Study:

1. Buchanan, Mark. *Hidden in Plain Sight: The Secret of More*. Thomas Nelson: Nashville, TN 2007

