



Course Name: GRIT - Biblical Perseverance

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Course description:

The GRIT series of lessons focuses on a discussion related to conviction, passion, and perseverance. The ideas from this lesson address a biblical perspective in relationship to perseverance. We will also discuss ways we can grow to have a greater level of perseverance.

Course Objectives: By the end of the class students will have:

- A. Reviewed the lesson from last week on defining perseverance.
- B. Examined four biblical passages related to perseverance.
- C. Determined a minimum of four ways to grow in our perseverance.

Outline of the class:

- A. Take a few minutes to review the material studied last week and ask what questions students have with the direction of the study.
- B. Ask the class to divide into four groups (regardless of the size of each group). Then, assign one of the following passages to each group.
 - 1. James 5:11 (Ask this group to discuss the perseverance of Job. They can go back and look at Job chapters 1-2 to help in the discussion.)
 - 2. Hebrews 12:2-3 (Ask this group to discuss the perseverance of Jesus. They can connect to any of the gospels needed to help.)
 - 3. 1 Corinthians 13:7 (Ask this group to discuss how perseverance plays a part of biblical love in relationships. They can look to 1 John 4:7-21 for additional information about biblical love.)
 - 4. 1 Peter 2:19-20 and 2 Peter 1:5-7 (Ask this group to discuss how perseverance factors into doing what is right and suffering versus doing what is wrong and suffering. Also, how does this connect to the virtues Christians have in their life?)
- C. Give each group about 10-15 minutes to examine their texts and come up with information they can share with the class. Then let each group take a few minutes to explain how perseverance relates to the text they were assigned. After a group shares information with the class, feel free to add anything that might have been left out and you feel relates to the subject.

- D. Ask the class to build on this discussion and share ways Christians can develop a greater level of perseverance. Take time to list these out on a whiteboard and keep track of them for later discussion. A few additional possibilities are listed below.
1. We need a goal worth achieving.
 2. Keep our focus on Jesus.
 3. Realize that “eternity matters.”
 4. Help someone else in need.

Conclusion:

- A. Biblical teaching about perseverance is not limited to the few passages we examined today. There are numerous passages that talk about perseverance or endurance. The quality of perseverance would seem to be a requirement for living the Christian life.
- B. The ideas expressed today, and how we can build greater perseverance, are beneficial in helping all of us achieve what we need. As leaders, there are times we will need greater levels of perseverance to achieve growth in the congregation.
- C. Next week, we will build on this discussion and examine the ways that Angela Duckworth describes increasing passion and perseverance.

Recommended Reading:

Duckworth, Angela. *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance*

Moore, Steve. *Who is my Neighbor? Being a Good Samaritan in a Connected World*

Maxwell, John. *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*