

## **Series: Seven Additions to Faith**

### **Title: Perseverance**

**Text: 2 Peter 1:6**

#### **Introduction**

According to the Apostle Peter, we start with faith and add to our faith virtue. To virtue, we add knowledge, and to knowledge, self-control. Now, we add to self-control, perseverance.

1. It's probably appropriate that perseverance is at the \_\_\_\_\_ of Peter's list.
2. Perseverance is a progressively \_\_\_\_\_ grace and has several levels we must develop as a part of our Christian character.
3. Four aspects of perseverance: Forbearance, \_\_\_\_\_, Endurance and Steadfastness.

#### **I. Forbearance**

4. *Strong's Concordance* gives us these synonyms for forbearance: self-restraint, \_\_\_\_\_, and reliability.
5. It is something you grant to another person or group of people who have \_\_\_\_\_ you somehow.
6. Forbearance can be shown with a loving heart or \_\_\_\_\_. The Bible says that God exercises forbearance with us.
7. Paul says in Romans 3:25 that in His forbearance God \_\_\_\_\_ the sins that were previously committed.
8. When we sinned, we became \_\_\_\_\_ of the just penalty of death.
9. God continues to \_\_\_\_\_ their downward spiral and restrains himself from interfering with their choices.

10. As followers of Christ, we, too, must learn to exercise \_\_\_\_\_.
11. It means we hope that a person's experiences with the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin will one day cause them to call out to God for His help.
12. Paul says that even though we are persecuted, we forbear; we tolerate and restrain ourselves from \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Forbearance toward others is part of our \_\_\_\_\_ responsibility.
14. Forbearance is usually a short-term \_\_\_\_\_ to someone's actions or words.
15. Our fallen \_\_\_\_\_ is stronger than we realize, and when the Holy Spirit does not properly control it, it will always get us into trouble!
16. Practicing forbearance is \_\_\_\_\_ business and is an essential step in the development of perseverance.

## **II. Long-suffering**

17. Longsuffering is a character quality developed and exercised over the \_\_\_\_\_ of your experiences.
18. It means to go for an extended time without exercising \_\_\_\_\_.
19. Paul says that God practices forbearance and longsuffering towards us to lead us to \_\_\_\_\_.
20. God puts up with us, so we have an opportunity to sincerely repent of our sins and \_\_\_\_\_ how we live our lives.
21. God was longsuffering and gave the people every opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ and join Noah and his family.

22. Just because God is longsuffering does not mean he will \_\_\_\_\_ bring judgment upon us.
23. Paul calls the nation of Israel "\_\_\_\_\_ of wrath."
24. God endured "with much longsuffering," Paul says, for the hope that \_\_\_\_\_ might repent and turn to serve him.
25. The \_\_\_\_\_ and faithless will not continue indefinitely.
26. The good news is that Israel will \_\_\_\_\_ learn her lesson and be re-established as a nation and a covenant-keeping people of God.
27. Ultimately, the New Covenant, which God will establish with Israel, will flow out to the entire \_\_\_\_\_.
28. The people of God that have truly repented and received Christ will become the people in \_\_\_\_\_ relationship with the One True God.
29. The New King James Bible translates it as \_\_\_\_\_.
30. Peter says, "The Lord is not \_\_\_\_\_ concerning *His* promise, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)
31. If it weren't for God's patience with us, none of us would ever be \_\_\_\_\_!

## **Conclusion**

32. God's \_\_\_\_\_ love is longsuffering.
33. In Hebrews 6:11, Paul connects \_\_\_\_\_ and faith.

Faith in God promises us a better day and gives us the confidence and assurance we need to overcome trials, testing, ridicule, and even persecution.

Our faith is vitally connected to every aspect of this grace called perseverance. It includes forbearance, longsuffering, endurance, and steadfastness.

Answers:

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|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. center           | 12. retaliating | 23. vessels     |
| 2. learned          | 13. stewardship | 24. some        |
| 3. longsuffering    | 14. response    | 25. disobedient |
| 4. tolerance        | 15. flesh       | 26. eventually  |
| 5. wronged          | 16. serious     | 27. world       |
| 6. begrudgingly     | 17. long haul   | 28. covenant    |
| 7. passed over      | 18. wrath       | 29. patience    |
| 8. partakers        | 19. repentance  | 30. slack       |
| 9. tolerate         | 20. change      | 31. saved       |
| 10. forbearance     | 21. repent      | 32. agape       |
| 11. destructiveness | 22. never       | 33. patience    |

#### QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION

1. In what ways has God shown forbearance toward you? Why is forbearance so difficult? What things can you do this week to help control your episodes of forbearance in your life?
2. How can we reflect God's long-suffering towards us to others this week?