



MAIN SCRIPTURES

- John 6; Mat. 7:13-14; 24:13
- Rom. 5:3-5; Hebrews 10:36;
1 Corinthians 9:26-27

SURRENDER MY ATTITUDE

- Surrender Quitting
- Practice Perseverance

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:

“Beloved, now we are children of God. **It is not yet revealed what we will be; but we know that when He is revealed, we will be like Him,** for we will see Him just as He is.” 1 John 3:2 WEBUS

“At this, **many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him.**” John 6:66 WEBUS

“**Enter in by the narrow gate;** for the gate is **wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction,** and there are many who enter in by it. **How narrow is the gate and the way is restricted that leads to life!** There are few who find it.” Matthew 7:13-14 WEBUS

“But **he who endures to the end** will be saved.” Matthew 24:13 WEBUS

“Jesus said therefore to the twelve, “**You don’t also want to go away, do you?”**” John 6:67 WEBUS

“Let’s not be weary in doing good, for **we will reap in due season if we don’t give up.**” Galatians 6:9 WEBUS

“But you, brothers, don’t be weary in doing what is right.” 2
Thessalonians 3:13 WEBUS

“Not only this, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope doesn’t disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” Rom. 5:3-5 WEBUS

“I therefore run like that, not aimlessly. I fight like that, not beating the air, but I beat my body and bring it into submission, lest by any means, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.” 1 Corinthians 9:26-27 WEBUS

“For you need endurance so that, having done the will of God, you may receive the promise.” Hebrews 10:36 WEBUS

INTRODUCTION:

Cease resistance; abandon control of your life entirely, and come into complete submission to God. That’s what it means to surrender. When Y’shua returns, some of you will be like Him. And for that transformation to occur, it requires that you surrender quitting and practice perseverance.

Pray this without ceasing: “Yahweh, I surrender quitting. If life were as simple as a game, I’d be able to say, “Quitters never win, and winners never quit.” Then I’d drop the mic and walk off stage

feeling pretty good about the self-help motivational speech I just delivered. But life isn't a game, and never quitting isn't that simple. And to further complicate matters, walking away from the truth is attractive because walking in it often hurts so much. One choice seems to make life a whole lot more comfortable, but the cost is my life itself. The alternative is never comfortable, as if I'm caught in a trap and I must chew off my own limb to save my life. To surrender everything I can taste, see, smell, touch, and hear, for everything that has no flavor, looks like air, smells like words, feels like shadows, and sounds like silence, makes things exponentially more complicated. When the gate is narrow, and squeezing through is painful, walking away becomes easy. Unfortunately for quitters, the requirement is to endure to the end. "You don't also want to go away, do you?" The truth is that whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever is willing to lose his life will find it. Today, I practice perseverance. Life is the school of hard knocks, and if I graduate, my diploma will read, {My Name} has satisfactorily persevered and completed Doctorate studies in character and hope with honors! I did not succumb to, "I've done enough"; I did not complain that, "I've endured enough"; I did not announce that, "I've waited long enough"; and I did not walk away and proclaim, "I'm over it!" I was willing to endure and persevere through whatever it took for however long was required for God's work to

be perfected in me. I am no longer disqualified and am now equipped to enter the workforce. I know I will not be disappointed!

Whoever won't surrender quitting and practice perseverance, simply won't become like Him.

SURRENDER THE POOR ME ATTITUDE!

1. Surrender My Attitude

A. Surrender Quitting

- (1) **Introduction:** If life were as simple as a game, you'd be able to say, "Quitters never win, and winners never quit."
 - (a) It would be a mic drop moment and you could walk off stage feeling pretty good about the self-help motivational speech you just delivered (or received).
 - (b) Unfortunately, it's just not quite that simple—especially when Y'shua drops messages that are more like truth bombs that explode and make an awful mess, than they are like tidy little feel-good speeches that excite everyone to run out and tell the world about the next miracle pill, patch, powder, drink, or gadget that they just must have!
 - (c) And remember, you are not only the recipient of His messages, you are charged to spread His messages!

1. “Jesus therefore said to them, **“Most certainly, I tell you, it wasn’t Moses who gave you the bread out of heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread out of heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world.”**

They said therefore to him, “Lord, always give us this bread.” Jesus said to them, **“I am the bread of life.**

Whoever comes to me will not be hungry, and whoever believes in me **will never be thirsty.** But **I told you that you have seen me, and yet you don’t believe.** All those whom the Father gives me will come to me. He who comes to me I will in no way throw out. For **I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me.** This is the will of my Father who sent me, that of all he has given to me I should lose nothing, but should raise him up at the last day. **This is the will of the one who sent me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”**” John 6:32-40 WEBUS

- a) Actually, quitting looks very tempting when the message seems impossible to digest...

- 1) So far, it’s not too disturbing.

- 2) Sure, it challenges the orthodoxy of the day, but nothing Y'shua said thus far is so offensive that they will refuse to listen to another word.
- (d) However, it is challenging enough to their established religious beliefs that they do have serious reservations...
1. **"The Jews therefore murmured** concerning him, because **he said, "I am the bread which came down out of heaven."** They said, **"Isn't this Jesus, the son of Joseph,** whose father and mother **we know?** How then does he say, 'I have come down out of heaven'?"'" John 6:41-42 WEBUS
- a) When challenges enter that could change everything you once believed, the first line of defense is to immediately invalidate the messenger!

(2) Life isn't a game, and never quitting isn't that simple.

- (a) Rest assured that Y'shua always knows what we are thinking: every question, every concern, every doubt, and every preconceived notion.
1. "Therefore Jesus answered them, **"Don't murmur among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up in the last day.** It is written in the prophets,

***‘They will all be taught by God.’** Therefore everyone who hears from the Father and has learned, comes to me. **Not that anyone has seen the Father, except he who is from God. He has seen the Father.** Most certainly, **I tell you, he who believes in me has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness and they died. This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, that anyone may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down out of heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. Yes, the bread which I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”** John 6:43-51 WEBUS

- a) Y’shua’s use of prophecy here cannot be overlooked as if it’s a casual reference.
 - 1) ***“All your children will be taught by Yahweh, and your children’s peace will be great.”** Isaiah 54:13 WEBUS
 - 2. He is telling His audience: *“You won’t be able to understand or believe what I am saying unless the Father shows it to you.”*
 - 3. That’s not so jilting until it is reverse engineered: *“If you don’t understand or believe what I am*

saying, it's because you are not hearing from Yahweh!"

b) None of what you feel, think, or believe in advance, because of any previous bias or error, will hinder Y'shua from declaring the truth—even if it is difficult to hear or offends you.

1) I am the real bread of life!

2) The manna that came down from heaven in the wilderness was just a shadow—it was limited to keeping your bodies alive.

3) The true living bread is My Flesh (Body)—you must eat it in order for your soul to live forever.

(3) Walking away from the truth is attractive because walking in it often hurts too much. To walk away can make life temporarily more comfortable, but it will ultimately cost you your life.

(a) Cognitive dissonance is setting in; it's not yet full-blown; his audience is still questioning.

1. "The **Jews therefore contended** with one another, saying, "**How can this man give us his flesh to eat?**"

John 6:52 WEBUS

a) Y'shua is about to remedy that.

(b) Y'shua leaves no wiggle room around what He is saying, and this will push their cognitive dissonance over the edge to full-on rejection!

1. "Jesus therefore said to them, **"Most certainly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you don't have life in yourselves. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me, and I in him.** As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on me will also live because of me. **This is the bread which came down out of heaven—not as our fathers ate the manna and died. He who eats this bread will live forever.**" He said these things in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum." John 6:53-59 WEBUS

a) Most certainly, this is what I am saying... The bread our ancestors ate in the wilderness was a shadow of the real thing (that's Me!) and could only sustain physical life!

- 1) My flesh is the real bread that you must sacrifice (kill) and eat (believe in), if you want eternal life...
- 2) My blood is the real blood of the lamb that you must shed (collect) and drink (apply to the doorposts of your sin), if you want eternal life...
- 3) To sacrifice a human, eat its flesh, and drink its blood (or any blood) is obviously an abomination to Yahweh and an abominable offense to His Jewish audience.
- 4) Y'shua knows that His words will be inflammatory and will cause those who won't follow Him to flee!

(4) The alternative (walking in the truth) is never comfortable. It can feel like you're caught in a trap, and you must chew off your own limb to save your life.

(a) That was enough for many of them...

1. "Therefore many of his disciples, **when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying! Who can listen to it?"**" John 6:60 WEBUS

a) They could not and would not listen to any more of this man's "heresy"!

(b) Quitting time!

1. “But **Jesus knowing in himself that his disciples murmured** at this, said to them, “**Does this cause you to stumble?** Then what if you would see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit who gives life. The flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and are life. **But there are some of you who don’t believe.”** For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who didn’t believe, and who it was who would betray him. He said, “For this cause I have said to you that **no one can come to me, unless it is given to him by my Father.**”” John 6:61-65 WEBUS

- a) Does anyone want to walk away now that all the cards are on the table?
 - 1) Remember: *“You won’t be able to understand or believe what I am saying unless the Father shows it to you anyway!”*
- b) And if you do want to quit, this is what it says about you...
 - 1. *“You don’t understand or believe what I am saying because you are not hearing from Yahweh!”*

(5) To surrender everything you can taste, see, smell, touch, and hear, becomes exponentially more complicated if...

(a) ...everything you are being offered seems to have no flavor, looks like air, smells like words, feels like shadows, and sounds like silence.

1. **“At this, many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him.”** John 6:66 WEBUS

a) If that is what your faith feels like to you, you will just walk away from Him!

b) Remember: *“Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who didn’t believe, and who it was who would betray him.”*

(b) When the gate is narrow, and squeezing through is painful, walking away becomes easy.

1. **“Enter in by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter in by it. How narrow is the gate and the way is restricted that leads to life!** There are few who find it.” Matthew 7:13-14 WEBUS

a) This is more expected than you’d likely be comfortable to admit.

b) And there are plenty of self-appointed teachers and leaders who would be happy to (and do)

loosen the narrow restrictions about what Y'shua says, so more people "don't walk away."

- 1) *"**Beware of false prophets**, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves."* Matthew 7:15 WEBUS

(c) Unfortunately for quitters, the requirement is to endure to the end, regardless of how difficult things get or how intangible the final reward seems.

1. **"Then they will deliver you up to oppression and will kill you.** You will be hated by all of the nations for my name's sake. Then **many will stumble, and will deliver up one another,** and will hate one another. **Many false prophets will arise and will lead many astray.** Because iniquity will be multiplied, the love of many will grow cold. But **he who endures to the end will be saved.**" Matthew 24:9-13 WEBUS

- a) There are plenty of pseudo-Christians who are more than happy to loosen the reins on any restrictive theology that challenges their momentary fleshly lusts and desires.
- b) It becomes obvious by their predominant lifestyle choices that scream so loudly about who they

really are that it makes their confession of faith about as real as Santa Claus or the Easter Bunny.

(6) “You don’t also want to go away, do you?”

(a) Decide!

1. “Jesus said therefore to the twelve, **“You don’t also want to go away, do you?”**” John 6:67 WEBUS

a) Would you rather come into agreement with the new brutal reality (whatever the Bible requires of you), or do you want to walk away?

b) Peter, as usual, is the first to jump in with an answer...

1) *“Simon Peter answered him, **“Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”**”*
John 6:68-69 WEBUS

(b) Y’shua adds an interesting side-note about betrayal to the end of the conversation...

1. “Jesus answered them, **“Didn’t I choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?”** Now he spoke of Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, for it was he who would betray him, being one of the twelve.” John 6:70-71 WEBUS

- a) Impetuous Peter had been quick to respond to Y'shua's inquiry, *"You don't also want to go away, do you?"*
- b) He answered, *"Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words of eternal life."*
 - 1) Judas was the ultimate betrayer, but he was not the only one whom was like a devil; Satan actively tempts many to walk away.

(7) The Hot Seat

- (a) Later on, Peter is the one on the hot seat, as he blatantly denies Y'shua's revelation about His necessary and impending suffering.

- 1. **"From that time, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and the third day be raised up. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This will never be done to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.""** Matthew 16:21-23 WEBUS

- a) Difficult revelations, strict teachings, and hard times are the most common sources of temptation to “walk away.”
- b) Y’shua intimates that Peter’s thought process is satanic. “Get behind Me, Satan!”
 - 1) He not calling Peter Satan, but his thoughts in the moment are evil. It’s reasonable to conclude that any thinking that stands in contrast to Y’shua’s teachings is demonic.
 - 2) In this case, Peter does not like the idea that Y’shua must suffer, and as such He rebukes the Lord!
 - 3) Because of what comes next, this is a good time to hint at the practice portion on today’s lesson:
Practice Perseverance

(8) The truth is that whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever is willing to lose his life will find it.

- (a) People most often quit because they are not willing to persevere the suffering it takes to conform to the cross of Christ and die to themselves!
 - 1. “Then Jesus said to his disciples, **“If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever desires to save his**

life will lose it, and whoever will lose his life for my sake will find it.” Matthew 16:24-25 WEBUS

- a) If you want the life of a disciple who is following in the footsteps of Christ, it requires you, symbolically, to put yourself on the cross by denying your fleshly desires.
- b) The warning is that if you want to hold onto your lustful ways, you will have gained nothing in the end.
- c) The promise is that if you are willing to surrender your life and all of its lustful desires to God, you will gain everything. That’s what it means to serve God.
 - 1) ***“He who loves his life will lose it. He who hates his life in this world will keep it to eternal life. If anyone serves me, let him follow me. Where I am, there my servant will also be. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.”*** John 12:25-26 WEBUS
- d) Quite literally, if you are not willing to do so, you are not worthy of being called a disciple of Christ!
 - 1) ***“He who doesn’t take his cross and follow after me isn’t worthy of me. He who seeks his life will***

lose it; and he who loses his life for my sake will find it.” Matthew 10:38-39 WEBUS

(9) Ultimate Quitting—To Walk Away

(a) **Critical Clarification:** If someone exits, “walks away” from Y’shua, when the going gets tough, and they don’t ever come back, it’s because they were never really born-again.

1. “Little children, **these are the end times**, and as you heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen. By this we know that it is the final hour. **They went out from us, but they didn’t belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have continued with us. But they left**, that they might be revealed that none of them belong to us.” 1 John 2:18-19 WEBUS

a) Unfortunately, there are many pseudo-Christians because there are many pseudo-conversions.

- 1) Those who walk away permanently don’t represent Christians who lost faith and decided to change their religion.
- 2) They represent non-Christians who never really came to the faith.

- b) However, they were convinced they had become Christians with terrible salvation theology.
- 1) It is often espoused in a large segment of the evangelical movement or seeker-friendly church that all that is necessary for conversion is to coerce a confession of faith out of someone.
 - 2) If the minister can get an onlooker to recite a “repeat-after-me” prayer, they will be saved.
 - 3) This is wholly untrue! Unless the confession of faith is a result of a born-again encounter with Y’shua, “By grace you’ve been saved...” (Eph. 2:8) there is no conversion.
- c) In other words, the prayer of faith is the result of a conversion, not the cause! And that cannot occur unless it happens by the God’s grace.
- 1) *“But there are **some of you who don’t believe.**” For **Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who didn’t believe**, and who it was who would betray him. He said, “For this cause I have said to you that **no one can come to me, unless it is given to him by my Father.**” At this, **many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him.**” John 6:64-66 WEBUS*

- d) Fear not: Y'shua's "Get behind me Satan," did not mean Peter walked away; he just had a temporary glitch!

(10) Unfortunately, it was not Peter's last glitch...

- (a) Peter's Predicted Denial: even though he claims, *"Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you."*

1. "Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of me tonight, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you into Galilee." But Peter answered him, "Even if all will be made to stumble because of you, I will never be made to stumble." Jesus said to him, **"Most certainly I tell you that tonight, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times."** Peter said to him, **"Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you."** All of the disciples also said likewise." Matthew 26:31-35 WEBUS

- a) Peter's Three Denials

- 1) *"Now Peter was sitting outside in the court, and a maid came to him, saying, "You were also with Jesus, the Galilean!" But **he denied it***

before them all, saying, “I don’t know what you are talking about.”” Matthew 26:69-70 WEBUS

2) *“When he had gone out onto the porch, someone else saw him and said to those who were there, “This man also was with Jesus of Nazareth.” **Again he denied it with an oath, “I don’t know the man.””*** Matthew 26:71-72
WEBUS

3) *“After a little while those who stood by came and said to Peter, “Surely you are also one of them, for your speech makes you known.” **Then he began to curse and to swear, “I don’t know the man!”*** Immediately the rooster crowed. ***Peter remembered the word which Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.”*** Then he went out and wept bitterly.” Matthew 26:73-75 WEBUS

(11) Closed—GONE FISHING

(a) And as an impetuous behavior encore, in Peter’s final heroic act of glitching, he leads six others with him!

1. “After these things, Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias. He revealed himself this way. Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus,

Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. Simon **Peter said to them, “I’m going fishing.” They told him, “We are also coming with you.”** They **immediately went out** and entered into the boat. That night, they **caught nothing.**” John 21:1-3 WEBUS

a) What is so astounding is that after the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, Peter would quickly forget his calling as a “fisher of men” and choose to go back to his old life as a fisherman.

1) *“Walking by the sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers: Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, his brother, casting a net into the sea; for **they were fishermen.** He said to them, **“Come after me, and I will make you fishers for men.”**”* Matthew 4:18-19 WEBUS

2) We also quickly learn, however, that going back to your old life never produces anything good as, *“That night, they **caught nothing.**”*

(b) And yet, Y’shua will use even our mistakes to move us forward in our calling...

1. “But when day had already come, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples didn’t know that it was Jesus. Jesus therefore said to them, “Children, have you anything to eat?” They answered him, “No.” He said to them, **“Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.”** They cast it therefore, and **now they weren’t able to draw it in for the multitude of fish.”** John 21:4-6 WEBUS
 - a) In a quintessential act of graciousness and kindness, Y’shua helps remedy Peter’s error and that of his unsuspecting cohorts.
 - 1) He does not rebuke them for returning to their old lives as fishermen; instead, He reveals Himself as the source of everything they are looking for.
 - 2) They went in search of catching some fish and caught nothing, and literally and for metaphorical purposes, at Y’shua’s prompting, caught so large a catch that they could hardly manage the nets (a prophetic picture of their coming ministry).
 - (c) And again, Peter just can’t help himself...

1. “That disciple therefore whom Jesus loved said to Peter, **“It’s the Lord!”** So when **Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord**, he **wrapped his coat around himself (for he was naked)**, and **threw himself into the sea.**” John 21:7 WEBUS
 - a) When Peter realized it was the Lord, he jumped into the water to get to the shore (even though the boat was not far from the beach).
 - b) The passage indicates he was naked (likely indicating he had stripped to his undergarment while fishing).
 - c) However, he put on his outer garment first—before entering the water, exposing yet again his impetuous behavior.
- 1) *“But **the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from the land**, but about two hundred cubits away), dragging the net full of fish. So when they got out on the land, they saw a fire of coals there, with fish and bread laid on it. Jesus said to them, “**Bring some of the fish which you have just caught.**””* John 21:8-10 WEBUS

- d) When the Lord's ways are your ways, that is when you go from, *"catching nothing to a net filled with so many fish."*
- 1) *"Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land, **full of one hundred fifty-three great fish.** Even though there were so many, the net wasn't torn."* John 21:11 WEBUS
- e) This is the way we should start every day; *"Come and eat breakfast!"* with Christ.
- 1) *"Jesus said to them, **"Come and eat breakfast!"** None of the disciples dared inquire of him, "Who are you?" **knowing that it was the Lord.** Then Jesus came and took the bread, gave it to them, and the fish likewise. This is now the third time that Jesus was revealed to his disciples after he had risen from the dead."* John 21:12-14
WEBUS

(12) Y'shua restores Peter: Peter had denied knowing Christ three times on the morning He was crucified.

- (a) **"Feed My lambs!"** Y'shua wants Peter to make converts; Introduce people to Me to restore you from your denial that you were "with Jesus."

1. **Restoration #1:** “So when they had eaten their breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “**Simon, son of Jonah**, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I have affection for you.” He said to him, “**Feed my lambs.**”” John 21:15

WEBUS

- a) **Denial #1:** “*You were also with Jesus, the Galilean!*” But **he denied it before them all, saying, “I don’t know what you are talking about.”**”
- (b) **“Tend My sheep!”** Y’shua wants Peter to pastor and disciple converts as they grow. Help them mature and grow in their faith to restore you from swearing you did not know Me.

1. **Restoration #2:** “He said to him again a second time, “**Simon, son of Jonah**, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I have affection for you.” He said to him, “**Tend my sheep.**”” John 21:16

WEBUS

- a) **Denial #2:** “*This man also was with Jesus of Nazareth.*” **Again he denied it with an oath, “I don’t know the man.”**”

(c) **“Feed My sheep!”** Y’shua wants Peter to raise them up into mature adult Christians who walk and talk like Christ to restore him from his denial of being one of them who talked like a disciple.

1. **Restoration #3:** “He said to him the third time, **“Simon, son of Jonah,** do you have affection for me?” Peter was grieved because he asked him the third time, “Do you have affection for me?” He said to him, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I have affection for you.” Jesus said to him, **“Feed my sheep.”** John 21:17 WEBUS

a) **Denial #3:** *“Surely you are also one of them, for your speech makes you known.”* ***Then he began to curse and to swear, “I don’t know the man!”***

1) Y’shua affectionately refers to Peter as the **“son of Jonah”**—because Peter, like Jonah, can’t stay out of the water. (See [Stay in the Boat](#); Mat. 14:22-33)

B. Practice Perseverance

(1) **Introduction:** Life is the school of hard knocks.

(a) Upon graduation, your diploma will read, {Your Name} has satisfactorily persevered and completed Doctorate studies in character and hope with honors!

1. **“Not only this, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope doesn’t disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”**

Romans 5:3-5 WEBUS

- a) You did not succumb to, “I’ve done enough!”
 - b) You did not complain that, “I’ve endured enough!”
You did not announce that, “I’ve waited long enough!”
 - c) You did not walk away and proclaim, “I’m over it!”
 - d) You were willing to endure whatever suffering it took for however long was required for God’s work to be perfected in you.
- (b) “Quitters never win, and winners never quit!” No, it’s not that easy, and true disciples will have some glitches along the way, but they always finish well!
1. “For I am already **being offered**, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight. **I have finished the course. I have kept the faith.**” 2

Timothy 4:6-7 WEBUS

a) It's never the right time to stop doing the right thing!

1) ***"Let's not be weary in doing good, for we will reap in due season if we don't give up."***

Galatians 6:9 WEBUS

b) It's never the wrong time to do the right thing!

1) ***"But you, brothers, don't be weary in doing what is right."*** 2 Thessalonians 3:13 WEBUS

(2) **Key Distinctions: Patience vs. Perseverance**

(a) It is prudent to distinguish the difference between patience and perseverance. See also: [Surrender](#)

[Timeframes & Practice Patience](#)

1. Both can involve facing trials and difficulties.
2. Both can include disappointments and delays.
3. Both absolutely have critical lessons at the end of the line, if you get there.
4. Both require an expression of humility.

(b) Consider that things MIGHT HARDLY EVER go as you intended, but you CAN STILL ALWAYS experience joy.

1. To advance this idea, we will draw from two writers.
 - a) **James writes...** Be joyous while you persevere through trials; Humble yourself like that and God will elevate you (pointing to Job 22:29)!

1) *“**Count it all joy**, my brothers, when you fall into various temptations, knowing that **the testing of your faith produces endurance**. Let **endurance have its perfect work**, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”* James 1:2-4

WEBUS

2) *“**Humble yourselves** in the sight of the Lord, and he will exalt you.”* James 4:10

WEBUS

b) **Peter writes...** rejoice now even in the midst of trials. Praise God while being tested, casting all of your worries on Him. Humble yourself like that and God will elevate you (pointing to Job 22:29)!

1) *“**In this you greatly rejoice**, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been **grieved in various trials, that the proof of your faith, which is more precious than gold that perishes, even though it is tested by fire, may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ—**”* 1 Peter 1:6-7

WEBUS

2) *“**Humble yourselves** therefore under the mighty hand of God, **that he may exalt you** in due time,*

casting all your worries on him, because he cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:6-7 WEBUS

(c) Patience requires waiting...

1. It means to calmly accept delays, difficulties, or suffering without annoyance.
2. It means to focus on maintaining a feeling of peace on the inside, even while you wait.

a) **Patience**

- 1) **Definition:** The ability to endure delays, problems, or suffering without losing composure or becoming anxious.
- 2) **Focus:** Inner calm, acceptance, and managing your reaction to the wait.
- 3) **Lesson:** *“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth.” Psalms 46:10 WEBUS*

(d) Perseverance, in contrast to waiting, requires action...

1. It means to have an active determination to keep going as needed.
2. It means to push through obstacles with steady effort towards a significant goal, even when times are difficult.

a) **Perseverance**

- 1) **Definition:** Continued, steady effort and determination to achieve a goal, despite difficulties or discouragement; permanent self-control.
- 2) **Focus:** Active persistence, action, and commitment to the “why” behind the goal.
- 3) **Lesson:** *“A certain woman who had a discharge of blood **for twelve years**, and had suffered many things by many physicians, **and had spent all that she had**, and was no better, but rather grew worse, having **heard the things concerning Jesus, came up behind him in the crowd and touched his clothes.** For she said, “**If I just touch his clothes, I will be made well.**” Immediately the flow of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be cured of your disease.”” Mark 5:25-29, 34*

WEBUS

(e) Patience and Perseverance are **Complementary Forces**

1. Both are necessary to walk in the will of God.
2. Man works with God as His human initiative partner!

- a) We can draw on the ancient and ageless wisdom in Proverbs to delineate how mankind can complement God's will:
 - 1) *"There are many **plans in a man's heart**, but ***Yahweh's counsel will prevail.***" Proverbs 19:21 WEBUS*
 - 2) *"A **man's heart plans** his course, but ***Yahweh directs his steps.***" Proverbs 16:9 WEBUS*
- b) The prophets acknowledged this very thing: **God directs man's steps; man must do the walking!**
 - 1) *"Yahweh, I know that ***the way of man is not in himself. It is not in man who walks to direct his steps.***" Jeremiah 10:23 WEBUS*
 - 2) *"and when you turn to the right hand, and when you turn to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, ***'This is the way. Walk in it.***" Isaiah 30:21 WEBUS*
- (f) Today's focus is Perseverance which requires action...
 - 1. To have an active determination to keep going as needed; permanent self-control.
 - 2. To push through obstacles with steady effort towards a significant goal, even when times are difficult.

3. Continued, steady, determined effort to achieve a goal, despite difficulties or discouragement.
4. Active persistence, action, and commitment to the “why” behind the goal.

(g) Key Differences and Relationship

1. **Waiting vs. Action:** Patience allows you to wait effectively; perseverance pushes you to act as needed.
2. **Mindset vs. Action:** Patience is a calm state, while perseverance is a determined action.

(h) **Complementary Assets:**

1. You need **patience** to tolerate the reality that everything takes time, plus the delays and problems that often appear along the way; you need **perseverance** to do the work required over that time, but only in seasons that God is calling you to act.
 - a) You can have **patience** (the right mindset to wait effectively) without **perseverance** (never making any effort when action is necessary).
 - b) You can also **persevere** without **patience**, which leads impetuous behavior and burnout.
2. Exercising both correctly makes you relentless and effective.

3. In essence, **patience** is the mindset to wait well, while **perseverance** is the drive to keep moving forward despite setbacks.

(3) Perseverance

- (a) Doing what is right, no matter how hard it is, or how long it takes, or what the cost!

1. “**For this very reason you are required to do your part. Make every effort** to add to your faith virtue; add to virtue, knowledge; add to knowledge, self-control; **add to *self-control, perseverance;** add to perseverance, godliness; add to godliness, brotherly affection; and add to brotherly affection, love.” 2

Peter 1:5-7 [*Perseverance is permanent self-control!*]

- a) **Warning:** Suffering, trials, difficulties, and delays are part of the growth process. If Y’shua suffered, why not us?
- 1) Y’shua warned in John 16:33: “*In this world **you will have trials.***”
- 2) Paul’s exhortation in Acts 14:22: “***It is through many tribulations** that we enter the Kingdom of Heaven.*”
- b) It is in the suffering, trials, difficulties, and delays when perseverance shines! Persevere no matter

what the trials or how long they take. Think about Y'shua!

- 1) *"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, **not my will, but yours, be done.**"* Luke 22:42 WEBUS
- 2) *"Jesus said, **"Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."** Dividing his garments among them, they cast lots."* Luke 23:34 WEBUS

(4) Think of perseverance as PERMANENT SELF-CONTROL

(a) Perseverance is the active side of the coin of patience

1. *"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, **be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.**"* 1 Corinthians 15:57-58 WEBUS

- a) You know what is right from God!
- b) You know how to do it and you do it!
- c) You discipline yourself from straying off course, but it still won't happen!
- d) The fruit is elusive; the breakthrough absent; and hope starts to fade!

- e) Don't ever surrender! Don't ever give up! Never quit! That is what perseverance looks like:
permanent, relentless, never-ending self control.

(b) Four Examples of Tenacious Perseverance

- 1. An undeniable fact that we learn in Romans 8:17: We are *"joint heirs with Christ, **if indeed we suffer** with Him, that we may also be glorified with Him."*

- a) The relentless faith of the mother of a demon possessed girl...

- 1) *"Jesus went out from there and withdrew into the region of Tyre and Sidon. Behold, a Canaanite woman came out from those borders and cried, saying, "Have mercy on me, Lord, you son of David! **My daughter is severely possessed by a demon!**" But he answered her not a word. His disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away; for she cries after us." But he answered, "I wasn't sent to anyone but the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and worshiped him, saying, "Lord, help me." But he answered, "It is not appropriate to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." But she said, "Yes, Lord,*

but even the dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, ***"Woman, great is your faith! Be it done to you even as you desire."*** And her daughter was healed from that hour." Matthew 15:21-28

WEBUS

b) The insistent nature of widow seeking justice...

- 1) ***"He also spoke a parable to them that they must always pray and not give up, saying, "There was a judge in a certain city who didn't fear God and didn't respect man. A widow was in that city, and she often came to him, saying, 'Defend me from my adversary!' He wouldn't for a while; but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow bothers me, I will defend her, or else she will wear me out by her continual coming.'"*** The Lord said, "Listen to what the unrighteous judge says. ***Won't God avenge his chosen ones who are crying out to him day and night,*** and yet he exercises patience with them? I tell you that he will avenge them quickly. Nevertheless, when the

Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?" Luke 18:1-8 WEBUS

c) Asking and keep asking until the blessing comes like Jacob: *"I won't let you go unless you bless me."*

1) *"He rose up that night, and took his two wives, and his two servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of the Jabbok. He took them, and sent them over the stream, and sent over that which he had. **Jacob was left alone, and wrestled with a man there until the breaking of the day.** When he saw that he didn't prevail against him, the man touched the hollow of his thigh, and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was strained as he wrestled. **The man said, "Let me go, for the day breaks."** Jacob said, **"I won't let you go unless you bless me."** He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob". He said, **"Your name will no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have fought with God and with men, and have prevailed."** Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." He said, "Why*

is it that you ask what my name is?" So he blessed him there." Genesis 32:22-29 WEBUS

d) A woman with an issue of bleeding for 12 years...

- 1) *"A certain woman who had a discharge of blood **for twelve years, and had suffered many things by many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better, but rather grew worse,** having heard the things concerning Jesus, came up behind him in the crowd and touched his clothes. For **she said, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be made well."** Immediately the flow of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. He said to her, **"Daughter, your faith has made you well.** Go in peace, and be cured of your disease."* Mark 5:25-29, 34 WEBUS

(5) Seven things to consider as you persevere...

(a) Sometimes things just take more time than expected:

1. **"Let's not be weary in doing good, for we will reap in due season if we don't give up.** So then, as we have opportunity, **let's do what is good toward all men,** and especially toward those who are of the household of the faith." Galatians 6:9-10 WEBUS

- a) Don't become exhausted from doing what is right in God's eyes; His promise is that if you continue steadfastly, your harvest will come!
- (b) Sometimes the desired outcome is delayed because you are being tested:

- 1. "Not only this, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that **suffering produces perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope doesn't disappoint us,** because **God's love has been poured into our hearts** through the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

Romans 5:3-5 WEBUS

- a) To grow in your faith requires that you endure challenges. Perseverance both reveals and develops your character. And that entire journey is meant to produce one thing in you—that you would place all of your hope in God.
- (c) Sometimes the desired outcome is delayed because you are being disciplined or loved:

- 1. "**It is for discipline that you endure.** God deals with you as with children, **for what son is there whom his father doesn't discipline?** But **if you are without discipline,** of which all have been made partakers,

then you are illegitimate, and not children. {11} All chastening seems for the present to be not joyous but grievous; yet **afterward it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.**"

Hebrews 12:7-8, 11 WEBUS

- a) Quite simply, parenthood demands corrective action of children, and children are required to receive that discipline. This training is an indicator of a legitimate parent/child relationship.
- b) A parent who won't discipline a child does not love that child. A God who does not discipline His children does not love those children.
- (d) Sometimes your actions are meant to be permanent:
 - 1. [God] **"will pay back to everyone according to their works:"** to **those who by perseverance in well-doing** seek for glory, honor, and incorruptibility, eternal life; but **to those who are self-seeking and don't obey the truth**, but obey unrighteousness, will be wrath, indignation," Romans 2:6-8 WEBUS
 - a) One must be steadfast in their Christian lifestyle choices. It's never the right time to end doing what God wants you to do forever.
- (e) Sometimes you need to reevaluate your actions:

1. “All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes, but **Yahweh weighs the motives. Commit your deeds to Yahweh, and your plans shall succeed.**” Proverbs 16:2-3 WEBUS
 - a) It is possible that you thought you were doing the right thing, the right way, at the right time, but you missed something. It is prudent to revisit your decisions if the expected result is not forthcoming.
- (f) Sometimes you come to the end because the job is complete:
 1. “**Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things.** Enter into the joy of your Lord.” Matthew 25:21 WEBUS
 - a) If God has instructed you to do something for a season, or to accomplish a specific limited task, and you complete it, you may just be complete.
- (g) Sometimes you’ve made a mistake and you must be humble enough to admit you may have made an error:
 1. “**Pride** goes before destruction, and an **arrogant spirit** before a fall.” Proverbs 16:18 WEBUS
 - a) Humbly return to the beginning. Start with seeking God’s voice and His will, or maybe you are still

lacking some critical information, or maybe you took a misstep when you began to act.

- b) Always return to the spot where you discovered you went wrong and correct your course!
- (h) The relationship between tribulations, hope, and perseverance is best revealed in our opening passage.

1. “Not only this, but we also **rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces perseverance; and perseverance, proven character;** and proven character, hope; and hope doesn’t disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

Romans 5:3-5 WEBUS

- a) Testing, difficulties, and challenges are necessary in the discipleship process. (See also: [Surrender Limitations & Practice Humility](#))
- b) Hope is born from the ashes of suffering.
 - 1) If one stays the course while suffering, it produces perseverance; and perseverance is a key stage in your discipleship training because it develops and tests your character.
 - 2) Your character is accentuated and revealed at times when hope is all you have to sustain you.

- 3) Our lives are preserved by hope in our time of patiently waiting and while persevering.
- c) Hope is the sense of feeling relieved from suffering and doubt, even though in actuality relief from the circumstance has not yet come.
 - 1) If it had, it would not be considered hope, but reality.
 - 2) No one hopes for what has already happened; that would be absurd.
 - 3) But, to hope for what has not yet occurred, in what we cannot see with our eyes, that takes faith, patience, persistence, and perseverance.
 - 4) And for that, every child of God should remain eager.
- d) Not even the Lord of Glory was made perfect—except by persevering through suffering!
 - 1) *“For it became him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in bringing many children to glory, **to make the author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.**”* Hebrews 2:10 WEBUS
 - 2) *“though he was a Son, **yet learned obedience by the things which he suffered. Having been***

made perfect, he became to all of those who obey him the author of eternal salvation,”

Hebrews 5:8-9 WEBUS

(6) Perseverance, at times, requires prayer, fasting and relentless persistence!

(a) On this occasion, the disciples were not effective in ministry.

1. “When they came to the multitude, a man came to him, kneeling down to him and saying, “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is epileptic and suffers grievously; for he often falls into the fire, and often into the water. **So I brought him to your disciples, and they could not cure him.**”” Matthew 17:14-16
WEBUS

a) However, Jesus is ALWAYS effective!

- 1) “*Jesus answered, “Faithless and perverse generation! **How long will I be with you? How long will I bear with you? Bring him here to me.” Jesus rebuked the demon, and it went out of him, and **the boy was cured from that hour.*****”
Matthew 17:17-18 WEBUS

b) At times **preparation** is part of perseverance!

- 1) *“Then the disciples came to Jesus privately, and said, “**Why weren’t we able to cast it out?**” He said to them, “Because of your unbelief. For most certainly I tell you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. But **this kind doesn’t go out except by prayer and fasting.**””* Matthew 17:19-21 WEBUS

(7) With perseverance, you are no longer disqualified and are now equipped to enter the workforce.

- (a) Persevere until you achieve what God wants!
 1. “Don’t you know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run like that, so that you may win.** Every man who strives in the games exercises self-control in all things. Now they do it to receive a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible. **I therefore run like that, not aimlessly. I fight like that, not beating the air, but I beat my body and bring it into submission, lest by any means, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.”** 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 WEBUS

- a) And, don't waste your time or energy chasing anything that does not matter to God.
- (b) You will not be prevented from accomplishing everything God created you for, if you...
- 1. [Surrender Everything to God](#) (Complete Series)
 - a) **Three Surrender Introductory Teachings**
 - 1) Surrender Part I: Resistance & Confrontation
 - 2) Surrender Part II: Submission
 - 3) No Longer My Will: Complete Submission to God
 - b) **Surrender My Self**
 - 1) Surrender Idolatry & Practice Preeminence
 - 2) Surrender Ego & Practice Preferring Others
 - 3) Surrender Pride & Practice Meekness
 - 4) Surrender Comparisons & Practice Celebration
 - 5) Surrender Timeframes & Practice Patience
 - c) **Surrender My Rights**
 - 1) Surrender Expectations & Practice Inspiration
 - 2) Surrender Requirements & Practice Optional
 - 3) Surrender Agendas & Practice Flexible
 - 4) Surrender Entitlements & Practice Gratitude
 - 5) Surrender Explanations & Practice Acceptance
 - d) **Surrender My Ways**

- 1) Surrender Control & Practice Release
 - 2) Surrender Capabilities & Practice Support
 - 3) Surrender Self-Will & Practice Self-Sacrifice
 - 4) Surrender Lust & Practice Purity
 - 5) Surrender Excuses & Practice Responsibility
- e) **Surrender My Feelings**
- 1) Surrender Fear & Practice Freedom
 - 2) Surrender Anger & Practice Peace
 - 3) Surrender Judgment & Practice Honor
 - 4) Surrender Offenses & Practice Forgiveness
 - 5) Surrender Regrets & Practice Contentment
- f) **Surrender My Attitude**
- 1) Surrender Condemnation & Practice Reconciliation
 - 2) Surrender Self-Pity & Practice Determination
 - 3) Surrender Victimhood & Practice Enthusiasm
 - 4) Surrender Limitations & Practice Humility
 - 5) Surrender Quitting & Practice Perseverance
- g) **5 Bonus Surrender Teachings**
- 1) Surrender My Giving: God's Resources
 - 2) Surrender My Giving: God's Talents
 - 3) Surrender My Giving: God's Time
 - 4) Surrender My Vote: In His Image We Vote

5) Surrender My Marriage: The Art of Us

(c) We conclude *Practice Perseverance* today where we began in Romans 5:3-5: Perseverance will never end in disappointment!

1. **“Not only this, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope doesn’t disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”**

(d) This Scripture says it all and is why your need to *Practice Perseverance* is the exclamation point on our [Surrender Series](#)!

1. **“For you need endurance so that, having done the will of God, you may **receive the promise.*”**

Hebrews 10:36 WEBUS

(e) And the ***ultimate promise** can be found in a passage that has been a part of **EVERY SERMON** about surrendering your entire life to God!

1. **“Beloved, now we are children of God. It is not yet revealed what we will be; but **we know that when He is revealed, we will be like Him,* for we will see Him just as He is.” 1 John 3:2 WEBUS**

Prayer: I SURRENDER QUITTING (*“Yahweh, I surrender quitting. If life were as simple as a game, I’d be able to say, “Quitters never win, and winners never quit.” Then I’d drop the mic and walk off stage feeling pretty good about the self-help motivational speech I just delivered. But life isn’t a game, and never quitting isn’t that simple. And to further complicate matters, walking away from the truth is attractive because walking in it often hurts so much. One choice seems to make life a whole lot more comfortable, but the cost is my life itself. The alternative is never comfortable, as if I’m caught in a trap and I must chew off my own limb to save my life. To surrender everything I can taste, see, smell, touch, and hear, for everything that has no flavor, looks like air, smells like words, feels like shadows, and sounds like silence, makes things exponentially more complicated. When the gate is narrow, and squeezing through is painful, walking away becomes easy. Unfortunately for quitters, the requirement is to endure to the end. “You don’t also want to go away, do you?” The truth is that whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever is willing to lose his life will find it.*) I WILL PRACTICE PERSEVERANCE (*Today, I practice perseverance. Life is the school of hard knocks, and if I graduate, my diploma will read, {My Name} has satisfactorily persevered and completed Doctorate studies in character and hope with honors! I did not succumb to, “I’ve done enough”; I did not*

complain that, “I’ve endured enough”; I did not announce that, “I’ve waited long enough”; and I did not walk away and proclaim, “I’m over it!” I was willing to endure and persevere whatever it took for however long was required for God’s work to be perfected in me. I am no longer disqualified and am now equipped to enter the workforce. I know I will not be disappointed!)

ASSIGNMENT #25

1. Pray about and meditate on these Scriptures:

- A. “For **the word of God** is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and **is able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart. There is no creature that is hidden from his sight, but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.**” Hebrews 4:12-13 WEBUS
- B. “But there is **nothing covered up that will not be revealed**, nor hidden that will not be known.” Luke 12:2 WEBUS
- C. “For **God will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it is good, or whether it is evil.**” Ecclesiastes 12:14 WEBUS
- D. “For **no one can lay any other foundation than that which has been laid, which is Jesus Christ.** But if anyone builds on

*the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, **each man's work will be revealed. For the Day will declare it, because it is revealed in fire;** and the fire itself will test what sort of work each man's work is."* 1 Corinthians 3:11-13 WEBUS

E. *"For the time has come for **judgment** to begin with the household of God. If it **begins first with us**, what will happen to those who don't obey the Good News of God?"* 1 Peter 4:17 WEBUS

2. **Surrender Quitting:** *"At this, **many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him.** Jesus said therefore to the twelve, **"You don't also want to go away, do you?"**"* John 6:66-67 WEBUS

A. Search your heart humbly and honestly.

- 1) Do you recognize that if life were as simple as a game, you'd be able to say, "Quitters never win, and winners never quit." Then you'd drop the mic and walk off stage feeling pretty good about the self-help motivational speech you just delivered?
- 2) Are you aware life isn't a game, and never quitting isn't that simple?

- 3) Do you agree that to further complicate matters, walking away from the truth is attractive because walking in it often hurts so much?
- 4) Will you acknowledge that one choice seems to make life a whole lot more comfortable, but the cost is your life itself? And that the alternative is never comfortable, as if you're caught in a trap and you must chew off your own limb to save your life?
- 5) Do you see that to surrender everything you can taste, see, smell, touch, and hear, for everything that has no flavor, looks like air, smells like words, feels like shadows, and sounds like silence, makes things exponentially more complicated?
- 6) Can you admit that the gate is narrow, and squeezing through is painful, so walking away can seem easy?
- 7) Do you see how unfortunate it is for quitters, because the requirement is to endure to the end?
- 8) Do you want to "go away also?" or do you believe that whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever is willing to lose his life will find it?
- 9) Please review your answer to each question and explain your strategy to address it.
- 10) Who will hold you accountable to surrender quitting?

3. **Practice Perseverance:** *“But you, brothers, **don’t be weary in doing what is right.**”* 2 Thessalonians 3:13 WEBUS

A. Are you prepared to practice perseverance?

- 1) Can you recognize that life is the school of hard knocks, and if you graduate, your diploma will read, {Your Name} has satisfactorily persevered and completed Doctorate studies in character and hope with honors?
- 2) Will you agree to not succumb to, “I’ve done enough”; not complain that, “I’ve endured enough”; not announce that, “I’ve waited long enough”; and not walk away and proclaim, “I’m over it!”?
- 3) Will you declare that you are willing to endure and persevere whatever it takes for however long is required for God’s work to be perfected in you?
- 4) Are you ready to accept that you will no longer be disqualified and you will be equipped to enter the workforce, and that you know you will not be disappointed?
- 5) Please review your answer to each question and explain your strategy to address it.
- 6) Who will hold you accountable to practice perseverance?