Persevering Prayer

Acts 12: 3-7

1 Thess. 5:16-19

Intro (Summary of Previous Messages):

What is prayer good for? **Fellowshiping With God, Releasing Burdens, and Loving Others.**

**The Baptism of The Holy Spirit & Benefits of Praying in Other Tongues is a Gift of the Holy Spirit that opens up a believer to another level of intimacy with God, because this gift affords the believer the opportunity to be used by God to declare God’s will on either using a prayer language that is not their native tongue. Therefore, this form of prayer allows us to overcome the barriers of our own finite human knowledge and temptation to doubt, by simply allowing the Holy Spirit to use our tongue as His instrument to declare His will on the earth.**

**Focus Statement: Persevering Prayer opens the door to experiencing God’s goodness in the life we now live on earth and the life to come.**

Our prayer lives can be hindered by many different things like strife in relationships, physical and mental weariness, busyness, and confusion just to name a few. **My goal tonight is to identify Keys to Persevering Prayer that will destroy the enemies of Perseverance.**

**Enemies of Perseverance**

**Discouragement, Bitterness, Skepticism**

**Discouraged- to be short, be impatient, be vexed, be grieved (biblical hebrew)**

**Bitterness- penetrating, painful, soured (biblical hebrew)**

**Skepticism- an attitude of doubt or a disposition to incredulity [the state of being unwilling or unable to believe something] either in general or toward a particular object (Webster)**

**These three enemies work in tandem to sabotage faith and without faith an individual will either pray as a religious duty without any confidence that it will produce any results or that person will decide not to engage in prayer at all.**

*Exodus 6:2-9 NLT*

*And God said to Moses, “I am Yahweh—‘the LORD.’ [3] I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob as El-Shaddai—‘God Almighty’— but I did not reveal my name, Yahweh, to them. [4] And I reaffirmed my covenant with them. Under its terms, I promised to give them the land of Canaan, where they were living as foreigners. [5] You can be sure that I have heard the groans of the people of Israel, who are now slaves to the Egyptians. And I am well aware of my covenant with them. [6] “Therefore, say to the people of Israel: ‘I am the LORD. I will free you from your oppression and will rescue you from your slavery in Egypt. I will redeem you with a powerful arm and great acts of judgment. [7] I will claim you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God who has freed you from your oppression in Egypt. [8] I will bring you into the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I will give it to you as your very own possession. I am the LORD!’”* ***[9] So Moses told the people of Israel what the LORD had said, but they refused to listen anymore. They had become too discouraged by the brutality of their slavery.***

There is great danger in submitting to discouragement, as the passage above illustrates.

**Key Number One: Take The Expiration Date Off Your Faith**

*Psalm 27:13-14 AMP*

*I would have despaired had I not believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living. [14] Wait for and confidently expect the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for and confidently expect the LORD.*

**Subpoint: Anything that has an expiration date is subject to becoming spoiled. If we place a time limit on how long we are willing to wait to see God’s Promise come to pass, then we can be sure that the enemy of our souls will do anything in his power to manipulate things in such a way that the answer to our prayers will be delayed. If we can take the expiration date off of our prayers, then we will put ourselves in position to be resistant to the enemies attempt to discourage us with delays and other barriers.**

*Hebrews 10:32-39 NLT*

*Think back on those early days when you first learned about Christ. Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering. [33] Sometimes you were exposed to public ridicule and were beaten, and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things. [34] You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail, and when all you owned was taken from you, you accepted it with joy. You knew there were better things waiting for you that will last forever. [35]* ***So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you!*** *[36] Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God’s will. Then you will receive all that he has promised. [37] “For in just a little while, the Coming One will come and not delay. [38] And my righteous ones will live by faith. But I will take no pleasure in anyone who turns away.”*

*[39]* ***But we are not like those who turn away from God to their own destruction. We are the faithful ones, whose souls will be saved.***

**We are instructed to use our spiritual eyes to perceive our reality-gratitude and encouragement.**

**Key Number Two: Look At Life Through Heaven’s Lens**

*2 Corinthians 4:16-18 NLT*

*That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. [17] For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! [18] So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.*

*2 Corinthians 5:6-7 NLT*

*So we are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord. [7] For we live by believing and not by seeing.*

Give definition of the word:

**Serendipity**: the faculty or phenomenon of finding valuable or agreeable things not sought for.

**When it comes to our day to day needs and other cares of this life we called to trust in God’s goodness and seek first the Kingdom of God and “all these things shall be added unto the”.**

**Wrap Up: We called to trust in the Promise and not the process, Seek after the Giver and not the gift and as we do this we can persevere in prayer and in life to be active participants in God’s will being done on earth as it is in heaven.**