#### Perseverance or Endurance

### A. The relationship of love to perseverance

- 1. Matthew 24:13; Mark 13:13; Matthew 10:22 Endurance especially in the area of love (cp. Matthew 24:12) is evidence of salvation (see also 1 John 3:14-15).
- 2. 1 Corinthians 13:7 Love is characterized by its ability to endure in all circumstances.

#### B. Perseverance and fruitfulness

- 1. 2 Peter 1:8 cp. 1:6 Perseverance is a quality in which we need to be growing so that we will be useful and fruitful.
- 2. Luke 8:15 Being fruitful in any area of the Christian life requires perseverance.

## C. Perseverance and maturity

- 1. Romans 5:3-4 Troubles or problems are intended to promote perseverance in our Christians lives. Perseverance forms a vital link between the problems we face and the development of maturity.
- 2. James 1:2-4 If we by faith count it complete joy when we experience trials and testing of our faith, we know that it will develop perseverance or endurance on our way to maturity.

### D. Perseverance and suffering

- 1. Romans 12:12 cp. 12:1-2 One of the marks of a life consecrated to God is perseverance when undergoing suffering.
- 2. Luke 21:19 One of the benefits of persevering or enduring during trials is gaining mastery of our souls or inner thought life.
- 3. Revelation 13:10 Perseverance is needed even if we are facing loss of freedom or death.
- 4. 1 Peter 2:20 Endurance for wrongdoing is no honor to God but if we suffer for doing good, this shows God's grace to the harsh authority figure and those and those who may be watching.
- 5. 2 Timothy 2:10 We have a responsibility to endure or persevere in suffering so that people can come to salvation.
- 6. 2 Thessalonians 1:4 We are to show perseverance and faith in the midst of any persecutions or sufferings we encounter.
- 7. 2 Corinthians 1:6 The comfort spiritually-minded believers receive in suffering helps us endure when we suffer what they do.
- 8. Hebrews 10:32 When believers feel pulled to leave the path of the abundant life, they need to remember the sufferings they have already endured for Christ.

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### E. Its outworking in our lives

- 1. Revelation 2:2-3 We are to endure for the cause of Christ and not grow weary.
- 2. Hebrews 12:1 In order to exercise endurance or perseverance in our Christian lives, we must set aside sin because of its entangling effects and set aside every encumbrance. An encumbrance is anything that is not in its self sinful that would hinder our Christian life or growth.

# F. Perseverance needs to be a matter of prayer

- Colossians 1:11 We need to pray for other believers that they will be strengthened with God's power to have fully developed perseverance or endurance.
- 2. 1 Thessalonians 1:3 We need to thank God for believers who persevere in their future expectation of Christ's return.
- 3. 2 Thessalonians 3:5 We need to pray for Christlike perseverance in the lives of other believers.

## G. Perseverance as an example to copy and to model

- 1. Hebrews 12:2-3 Christ sets us a model of one who endured present suffering and hostility because there was joy beyond it.
- James 5:11 Job provides a model of endurance or perseverance to experience the fullness of God's compassion and mercy. The fact that Job did not really know the reasons for his suffering but trusted the Lord is a model for us.
- 3. 2 Timothy 3:10 In view of the fact that we live in perilous times, we need to model perseverance and imitate those who model perseverance.
- 4. Titus 2:1-2 Older men ordering their lives by sound doctrine are to demonstrate perseverance.

### H. Perseverance in relation to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ

- Revelation 14:12 We need to show perseverance in trusting Jesus and obeying God's commands in light of the terrible reality of the future of the unsaved in hell.
- 2. Romans 8:25 We are to persevere in eagerly awaiting our future hope or expectation.
- 3. Romans 15:4 Perseverance on our part is needed in relation to the instruction and exhortation of the Old Testament so we will have a strong sense of our future expectation.
- 4. Hebrews 10:36 Endurance or perseverance in doing God's will is needed now in order to be rewarded in the future.
- 5. James 1:12 Perseverance brings blessing in the present life and the promise of reward ("crown of life") in the next life.

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6. 2 Timothy 2:12 – Our endurance or perseverance now is related to our authority in the future kingdom and the eternal state in heaven (Revelation 20:6: 22:5).