

# PERSEVERANCE

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In this present hour of revelation to the Church, the Lord would remind us of the importance of perseverance. The Bible is full of scriptures and of examples of perseverance. But first, what is the meaning of perseverance?

The definition of perseverance is: **steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.** Charles Spurgeon said, "By perseverance the snail reached the ark."

Perseverance is the ability to continue pressing forward in spite of our feelings of discouragement, or the difficulties that we encounter on the pathway of faith.

Some examples of perseverance in the Bible include:

## **The Book of Job**

The familiar story of Job reminds us how a believer can persevere in the face of great hardship hanging on to his/her faith and integrity.

*"My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord - that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful"* (James 5:10-11, NKJV).

## **The Book of the Prophet Jeremiah**

- Jeremiah's life was threatened (Jeremiah 37:17-21).
- He was cast into the dungeon, where he sank in the mire (Jeremiah 38:1-6).
- He was placed in the stock (Jeremiah 20:1).
- His people of Anathoth resisted him and sought his life (Jeremiah 11:21-22).

When Jeremiah prophesied the word of God to the people, the priests, the false prophets and all the people mistreated him. Nevertheless, Jeremiah persevered (Jeremiah 26:8-11).

### The Widow in Luke 18

Often called the “Parable of Perseverance” in this parable, the widow is put forth as an example of perseverance.

*“And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?”* (Luke 18:1-8, KJV).

The widow persistently begged for justice from an unrighteous judge who yielded to her persistent demand for justice, so as to stop her from pestering him.

### Apostle Paul

The life of the Apostle Paul certainly provides many examples of perseverance. Listen to Paul’s description of the difficult experiences that he went through while preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom:

*“We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus’ sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. So then death worketh in us, but life in you. We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak”* (2 Corinthians 4:8-13, KJV).

The Apostle Paul gives us a running description of his own difficulties in doing God’s work:

*“Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?*

*If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not. In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me: And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands”* (2 Corinthians 11:23-33, KJV).

Finally, we see the real picture of the joy of a Christian who has persevered to the end. At the end of life, Paul could confidently and joyfully exclaim:

*“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing”* (2 Timothy 4:6-8, KJV).

The Bible encourages us towards perseverance with the following scriptures:

*“Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away”* (Hebrews 2:1, NKJV).

*“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another; and so much the more as you see the Day approaching”* (Hebrews 10:23-25, NKJV)

*“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up”* (Galatians 6: 9, NIV).

**God does reward faithfulness,** *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”* (Hebrews 11:6, NKJV)

*“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it”* (Matthew 7:13, NKJV). **This scripture implies that it takes great effort or perseverance to His truths, to enter by the narrow gate.**

*“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, **and does them**, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, **and does not do them**, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall”* (Matthew 7:24-27, NKJV). **This scripture speaks of the**



**necessity of obedience and persistent application to the Living word in our perseverance.**

*“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22, NKJV).*

*“Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. **You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand**” (James 5:7-8, NKJV).*

*Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.** And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified” (1 Corinthians 9:24-27, NKJV).*

**Let us find our strength in the Spirit and continue to “persevere” in the Kingdom truths that have been placed before us. †**

# A UNIVERSAL CALL TO PRAYER & FASTING

## JUNE 4-8, 2018

The church was privileged to experience the moving of the Spirit of God in a wonderful way during the Feast of 2018 in North Battleford. We were given much instruction in setting aside our own will and submitting ourselves wholly to the will of God. As we move under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the brethren feel it is the mind of the Lord for the universal church to participate, once again, in a time of prayer and fasting from June 4-8, 2018.

It is a particularly opportune time, since it is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the outpouring of the Spirit of revelation in 1948. This revival was ushered in on the wings of prayer and fasting as described in the book, *This Move of the Spirit - the Revival of 1948 in North Battleford*. “As the close of the semester drew near, a deep sense of hunger for the deeper things of God resonated in many hearts. God opened their hearts to the tremendous power that exists in prayer and fasting. Many students and some faculty decided to give themselves to prayer and fasting” (*This Move Of The Spirit*, 2018, p. 12). Let us, 70 years later, give ourselves to the same tremendous power that we might witness the culmination of the scripture found in Philippians 1:6, “*Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.*”

There will be needs specific to each assembly but, in addition, let us seek God for the universal needs of the church. Some of these include:

1. That the gifts of the Spirit might function in the body of Christ as He has designed them to operate. “*So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members*

*of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them...” (Romans 12:5-6).*

2. That God’s people would so walk in humility and submission that He could bless us with deliverance from all manner of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual bondage. “*He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love*” (Colossians 1:13).
3. That we might be true to the calling to which God has called us and not allow the vision of Christ being fully formed within us to grow dim. “*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He has chosen as His own inheritance*” (Psalm 33:12).
4. That there might be unity in the church. Let all schism, dissension and offence be set aside. “*Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another*” (Romans 14:19). Psalm 133 speaks of the blessed unity of the people of God and concludes with the promise, which is “*Life forevermore.*”
5. That we might walk in humility, in fervent intercessory prayer, in reverence, in repentance and forgiveness. What a blessing it was to hear the intercessors stand and pray at our recent Feast. Let us all lend our prayers to the prayers of the intercessors as we seek God in one accord during this time of prayer and fasting. “*If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land*” (2 Chronicles 7:14).



Isaiah 58:6 describes the fast that is pleasing to God, *“Is this not the fast that I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke?”*

We encourage the elders of each assembly to call at least one prayer meeting during this time of seeking God for the many needs of the church. *“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much more as we see the Day approaching”* (Hebrews 10:23-25).

There are some practical measures that should be kept in mind in regard to fasting. Not everyone can participate in a full fast due to health issues, medications or other extenuating circumstances. Participate to the extent you are able, but especially lend yourself to earnest prayer.

During the fast it is important to drink sufficient water to keep yourself hydrated. When you break the fast, take juice and light foods first and then gradually work back to your normal diet.

The Lord’s ear is not heavy that He cannot hear (Isaiah 59:1). The Lord bless you as you fervently call upon Him to meet the needs of the body of Christ in this present hour. ✚



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## SHARON AR

The Sharon Star is a monthly publication and mailed as a free-will offering plan. The articles within are intended for inspiration and information to those who are interested in the unfolding revelation of the Word of God.

Published by:  
Global Missions Inc. in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada.

The Sharon Star is found online at:  
www.globalmissionsinc.org/sharon-star

Publications Mail Agreement 40012206

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