

# Blog



## Perseverance

How good are you at persevering?

Winston Churchill said, “If you are going through hell, keep going.” As the coronavirus pandemic continues and we face the extension of lockdown for at least a further three weeks, keeping on going is not simple. Concern over our health, finances, children’s education and the prospect of yet more days in isolation can be unsettling.

One key to this challenge, and indeed any test, is perseverance. It is a gift which keeps on giving through every trial. In his letter to the first generation of Christian believers, James wrote, “Let perseverance finish its work.”

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” (James 1:2-4)

No one likes being confronted by struggles. But persevering through the ordeal can pay dividends. Nightmares don't last forever and good can come from persevering through the night. When a better day dawns, perseverance may have produced some surprising benefits. Here are a few positive outcomes of perseverance.

### **Perseverance produces completion**

Perseverance produces completion of any project. Every goal requires stickability. Whether it is building a house, achieving a health goal, graduating in education, establishing financial security, earning promotion, flattening the curve of a pandemic, or any other objective, anything can be achieved by perseverance. “Success is no accident. It takes hard work and perseverance.” (Pele) Let perseverance finish its work, producing completion.

### **Perseverance produces competence**

Perseverance produces competence and skill in a given area. One by product of perseverance is the development of expertise gleaned from gruelling experience. According to the old proverb, “necessity is the mother of invention.” Much of what we are good at was learned under pressure. Proficiency is sometimes a spin-off of unwelcome duress. Let perseverance finish its work, producing competence.

### **Perseverance produces character**

Perseverance produces character. The discipline of endurance under pressure generates maturity. Paul, the apostle wrote, “Do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.” (1 Corinthians 14:20) One of our great life goals is to grow from spiritual infancy to godly maturity. This is most effectively achieved by steadfastness under trials. Let perseverance finish its work, producing character.

## **Perseverance produces Christ-likeness**

Perseverance produces Christ-likeness in us. All Christian believers are predestined to be conformed to the image of Jesus. From God’s perspective it is the primary goal of the Holy Spirit’s work in us. “To be like Jesus, to be like Jesus, all I want is to be like him.” Responding well during trials by perseverance is the way we become like Jesus. Let perseverance finish its work, producing Christ-likeness.

During trials our faith may be tested severely. But persevering under hardship can produce benefits. Perseverance produces completion, perseverance produces competence, perseverance produces character, and perseverance produces Christ-likeness. Let perseverance do its work.