

MISSION: POSSIBLE SERIES
Title: Mission Possible Part 5: Perseverance
Acts chapters 20-28, focus Acts 28:10-31 (NLT)

January 29, 2017

"Beginning well is a momentary thing; finishing well is a lifelong thing."- Ravi Zacharias

How many things in the last 6 months have you started but not finished?

Angela Duckworth in her book "Grit" defines it as as passion and perseverance for especially long-term goals.

What does it mean to persevere?

- Persevere means to continue in a course of action even in the face of difficulty or with little or no prospect of success.
- Persevere means to persist in anything undertaken; maintain a purpose in spite of difficulty, obstacles, or discouragement; continue steadfastly.

PERSEVERE KNOWING THAT THE PURPOSE OR MISSION OF GOD PUTS US ON A PATH. (Acts 9 & Acts 20:16-24)

PERSEVERE KNOWING THAT THE PATH MAY BE FILLED WITH PROBLEMS.
(Acts 21:4-4, 11; 21:13,30-33)

"Nothing paralyzes our lives like the attitude that things can never change. We need to remind ourselves that God can change things. Outlook determines outcome. If we see only the problems, we will be defeated; but if we see the possibilities in the problems, we can have victory."- Warren Wiersbe

PAUL PROCLAIMS HIS MESSAGE TO THIS CROWD OF ANGRY JEWS (Acts 21:37).

PAUL PROCLAIMS HIS MESSAGE BEFORE THE JEWISH HIGH COUNCIL (Acts 22:30).

PERSEVERE BASED ON GOD'S PROMISES. Acts 23:11

2 Peter 1:4 "And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires."

Hebrews 10:23 "Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise."

Titus 1:1-2 "This letter is from Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ. I have been sent to proclaim faith to those God has chosen and to teach them to know the truth that shows them how to live godly lives. This truth gives them confidence that they have eternal life, which God—who does not lie—promised them before the world began.

PAUL PROCLAIMS HIS MESSAGE BEFORE GOVERNOR FELIX (Acts 24:24-25).

PAUL PROCLAIMS HIS MESSAGE BEFORE KING AGRIPPA (Acts 25:23).

PERSEVERE IN GOD'S PROTECTION. (Acts 27:9-10, 21-26, 31-36).

PERSEVERE BECAUSE OF GOD'S PROVISION. (Acts 28:16).

¹²I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that my situation has actually turned out to advance the gospel: ¹³The whole imperial guard and everyone else knows that I am in prison for the sake of Christ, ¹⁴and most of the brothers and sisters, having confidence in the Lord because of my imprisonment, now more than ever dare to speak the word fearlessly. ¹⁵Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. ¹⁶The latter do so from love because they know that I am placed here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷The former proclaim Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, because they think they can cause trouble for me in my imprisonment. ¹⁸What is the result? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is being proclaimed, and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice (Philippians 1:12-18).

Points to Ponder:

1. Following Jesus places us on a path filled with purpose.
2. Followers of Jesus are not exempt from problems.
3. God can be trusted because He doesn't lie.
4. God is greater than the problems we face.
5. God has made provision for us to proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom.