

PERSEVERING WITH THANKSGIVING

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JEFF BENT

PERSEVERING WITH THANKSGIVING

Perseverance and tenacity are a lost art these days. Many times, we give up right before God is able to do something amazing in our problems. If you're struggling through a problem, hang on and persevere. If you're not dead, then God's not done!

THE BIG IDEA: When we look up to God, we find our reason for Thanksgiving.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share one thing you're thankful for today. Share a personal experience where gratitude helped you persevere through a difficult time.
2. [With your Bible or Bible App, read 2 Corinthians 4:15-18.](#)
¹⁵ All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory. ¹⁶ 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 4:15-18 \(NLT\)](#)
3. What truths keep Paul going in spite of his hardships? Why do you think God allows Paul to go through them?
4. Paul mentions that God's grace is reaching more and more people. How have you seen God's grace at work in your life and in the lives of others?
5. Paul talks about being renewed day by day in verse 16. What does daily renewal look like in a believer's life? What practical steps can you do so that you are being renewed this week?
6. How can we maintain perspective on our troubles as being *small and not lasting very long* in the grand scheme of things?
7. In verse 18, Paul encourages us to *focus on the unseen*. What are some practical ways we can focus on what is unseen rather than what is seen? How does distinguishing between what is temporary and what is eternal help us in our faith journey?
8. [With your Bible or Bible App, read 1 Peter 3:4.](#)
You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God. [1 Peter 3:4 \(NLT\)](#)
9. This verse speaks of the *unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit*. How can maintaining a grateful heart in times of difficulty reflect this inner beauty?
10. [With your Bible or Bible App, read Hebrews 11:1.](#)
Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. [Hebrews 11:1 \(NLT\)](#)
11. How does faith empower us to be thankful even when our circumstances are challenging? In what ways can we actively look for reasons to be thankful in our everyday lives?
12. What are some practical ways we can cultivate a lifestyle of thanksgiving, beyond just the holiday season?

MOVING FORWARD

What is one thing you feel God is teaching you about thanksgiving through difficulties? How can our attitude of thanksgiving amid trials be a witness to others about our faith?

WEEKLY READING

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! [2 Corinthians 4:17 \(NLT\)](#)