

WISDOM UNDER FIRE (Week 3)

September 28TH, 2025

Review:

- Week 1 reminded us that there are 2 kingdoms at war.
- In week 2 we discovered that in order to have wisdom, we must be determined to not defile ourselves or compromise our morals and values as Christ followers.
- This week: **PERSEVERANCE**.

PERSEVERANCE:

“Determination is a one-time decision, where perseverance is having determination over time.”

Every year between the end of December and the beginning of January research shows that as many as 50% of adults in the United States make New Year’s resolutions, but fewer than 10% keep them for more than a few months.

- The word “*perseverance*” in the Greek means: “*to remain, steadfastness, patiently waiting for, the ability to endure under the challenges that God allows in life.*”
- They knew the Word and were willing to be obedient to what they had been taught; then God gave them wisdom.

Where does perseverance come from?

James 1:2-4 (NIV) *²Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

Romans 5:1-5 (NKJV)

Where do you need to persevere?

Perseverance is to remain, to be patient, and to endure the challenges that God allows to come your way.

How do we persevere?

1. The Spirit of God.

- a. The Holy Spirit gives us wisdom...supernatural wisdom to be able to know what we should do, and how we should respond to challenging situations.

John 14-27 (NIV)

- When we accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit comes into our life and begins to change us!
- If we want the Holy Spirit to remind us of what Jesus has said, we first have to put in our mind what Jesus said.

2. The Word of God.

a. **2 Timothy 3:1-5, 10-17 (NIV)**

- i. The Word of God helps us to fix our eyes on the Son of God.

3. The People of God.

- a. They got together when they had to make decisions.

- b. They prayed when they had to make decisions.
- c. These things helped them persevere.
- d. **1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV); Hebrews 3:12-14 (NIV)**

Why do we persevere?

- 1. **Matthew 24:13, 2 Timothy 2:12, Galatians 6:9, 1 Peter 1:6-7 (NIV)**
- 2. People need us to persevere!
 - a. **Philippians 1:21-25; James 1:5-8 (NIV)**

When Daniel and his friends got together and asked for God's wisdom to help them, God showed up and gave them the wisdom they needed.

2 Thessalonians 3:13,16,18 (NIV) *¹³And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good. ¹⁶Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all. ¹⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen*

Do you need peace? Do you need help persevering through a trial? Scripture tells us that God has given us everything we need for a life of Godliness.

For Small Group Discussion:

Passages to look at: **Daniel 3 & 6; James 1; Philippians 4**

Ice Breaker: What is the hottest temperature you have been in? Share about it. Or tell us about the biggest fire you have experienced (*built, seen, or worked with, etc.*).

- **Share something important to you from the sermon. What questions did you have?**
 - 1. Read **Daniel 3**. What do you see in this passage about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? Describe what you think it might have looked like and sounded like at this moment for them.
 - 2. What had helped these men get to this point (*Daniel 1 may be helpful*)? What can you learn from them? Who helps you pursue God's perspective in the hard times? Who do you help?
 - 3. Read **Daniel 3:16-18; Daniel 6:6-10; Luke 9:23**. What do these passages show us about persistence and resilience?
 - 4. What small, repeated choices have made a difference in your life (*this can be both positive and negative*)?
 - 5. Where are you in need of perseverance and resilience this season? What is a small consistent next step for you?

Challenge this week: Read **Daniel** chapters **6** and **9**. Take note of how people responded under pressure.

Passages to prepare for next week: **Daniel 6** and **9, Acts 4; Romans 13**

Suggestion: Commit to reading through **Daniel** and **1** and **2 Peter** during this series.

Note: You may find the book and Right Now Media series: *Thriving in Babylon*, helpful.