

SOULFUL SCRIPTURE

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that 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

DEVOTION DIVE

Have you heard of the famous Christian author, C.S. Lewis? He wrote *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, and many other wonderful books. Do you think he was published after the first time he submitted his idea? Nope. In fact, he was rejected 800 times before being published!

C.S. Lewis persevered. Paul and Deborah, in the Bible, persevered. And Jesus also persevered.

To persevere means to not give up, but to continue on in the face of difficulty. They all poured their hearts into their visions and passions, and God was the One who made them happen. They looked to Him to lead them.

What is your passion? What is your goal? What is your hope? If someone doesn't believe in your idea, THAT IS OKAY. God is the One you are trusting in—not people. Now, that particular dream or goal might not happen—sometimes the process of pursuing the goal is the way God is growing you.

But, God has great things in store for you, so if it's not that, there will be something else. Either way, we can persevere and trust the Lord to fulfill His will and way for His glory. The Lord will accomplish great things through you—just look to Him and trust Him.

FILL IN THE GAPS

“CONSIDER IT PURE _____, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WHENEVER YOU FACE TRIALS OF MANY KINDS, BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT THE TESTING OF YOUR FAITH PRODUCES _____. LET PERSEVERANCE FINISH ITS WORK SO THAT YOU MAY BE MATURE AND _____, NOT LACKING ANYTHING.” JAMES 1:2-4

MINDFUL MOMENTS

- 1 Is there a time you shared a dream or idea with someone? How did it go?
- 2 When is a time you had to persevere in a difficult situation?
- 3 Looking back, how did you see God working in that time?

QUIZ QUEST

Jesus persevered throughout His life. Match the trial Jesus faced on the left with how He overcame it on the right. Look up the Scripture references for the answers.

1. _____ Jesus was tempted in the desert by Satan. (Matt. 4:1-11)

A. Jesus and the disciples got rest, and then continued teaching about the Lord.

2. _____ After Jesus healed a man, some people were against Him. (Matt. 12:13-15)

B. Jesus prayed and asked for God's will to be done.

3. _____ Jesus and the disciples were tired and hungry. (Mark 6:31-34)

C. Jesus told the disciples that they will face trouble, but that He has overcome the world!

4. _____ Jesus was sorrowful and troubled before He went to the cross. (Matt. 26:36-39)

D. In the face of opposition, Jesus persevered and continued His ministry.

5. _____ Jesus' disciples didn't understand Jesus' plan. (John 16:29-33)

E. Jesus quoted Scripture to resist temptation.

CREATIVE CORNER

UNSCRAMBLE THE WORD. This word helped Jesus overcome challenges and follow the Lord's will. It will also help you seek the Lord and pursue your dreams.

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