

“ADD TO YOUR FAITH” (2 PETER 1:5-7) PERSEVERANCE



The “perseverance” Peter notes we must “add to” our “faith” is the same “perseverance” James mentions Job possessed (James 5:11). By looking at this quality from the character of Job, we learn it includes...

...the ability to reasonably face any hardship. Job faced the reality of financial ruin as he lost his great possessions (Job 1:9-17). He felt the emotional pain of grief as his children died in a disaster (1:18-19). Boils brought physical suffering (2:7-8). To add insult to injury, Job’s friends were pitiful comforters.

...a consistent endurance in the presence of trials. As Job’s wife cracked under the pressure, he remained reasonable in the face of adversity. Job 1:22 says, “In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.” Even after his body is struck with boils, “...Job did not sin with his lips” (2:10). Job’s question to his own wife displays his own attitude as he asks, “Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?” (2:10). How many jump on God’s bandwagon in times of material prosperity only to jump off when the slightest challenge must be faced?

...an outlook which focuses on the goal. The one who perseveres to the end, must keep the end goal in mind. Job 42:12 says, “...the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning...” God rewards Job for having a faith that trusts God can provide. The Christian, despite his present struggles in this life, must also look to the reward of heaven. God has a place prepared for those who live their lives doing the Lord’s will. Perseverance demands we keep this goal in mind throughout our daily lives. *Joshua R. Welch*

WHY MY FAMILY NEEDS THE BIBLE DEFINITIONS

One of Satan’s most cunning tactics is his ability to play with words. In the Garden, he changed God’s command by adding one word “not” (cp. Genesis 2:17; 3:4). As he tempted Jesus, he took the words of God out of context so he might use them for his purposes (Matthew 4:6-7). In so doing, Satan attempts to redefine God’s Word and to “snatch away” the truth from our hearts (Matthew 13:19).

Satan’s ability to play with Bible truth, alter its message and change basic God-given definitions is still alive and well today. He has caused us to downgrade an unborn child by merely referring to it as a “fetus.” Satan’s work has included changing the meaning of “fornication” to the more positive definition of “love” and “homosexuality” to the less emotionally-charged “alternative lifestyle.” Further, “lies” are called “fibs,” “stealing” is a “five-finger dis-

count,” “drunkenness” is “getting tipsy” and “sin” is merely a “lapse of judgment.”

As we change the definition of words to suit our sinful desires, we become Satan’s pawns. Isaiah once warned, “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter” (Isaiah 5:20).

Friends, the only way we will know if Satan, and those who do his work, are changing God’s Word is if we know God’s Word itself! Much of society and many in this country are trying to change the definition of marriage. Some leaders in this country are telling us marriage may include homosexual couples. Leaders in foreign countries have discussed the possibility of polygamous marriages. What does God think? Read your Bible and God-approved

marriage is defined (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-9).

Some try to change the standards of morality. They do so by calling it by another name or offering justifications for it. God defines sin (1 John 3:4; James 4:17). Further, His Word gives abbreviated lists of sins that were not and are not acceptable to the Almighty Creator who has an intrinsic right to show us how to live (Matthew 15:18-19; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21).

Others are even attacking the definition of “love” and equate it with sexual acts. God never defines “love” in this fashion (John 15:13; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8).

Stop letting others define words for us and go to God’s own definition book—the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16-17). As we do so, “...let God be true, but every man a liar.”

Joshua R. Welch



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