



LifeGroup Questions Mar 07-21

Perseverance Grows Godly Character

As you hear of lightening restrictions, are you enthusiastic, worried, grateful, afraid?

We heard that **perseverance** is the ability to graciously go through problems without blowing up or giving up. What might “blowing up” and “giving up” look like for us?

On Sunday, **three occasions** were identified when we have **need to persevere**:

- when circumstances are uncontrollable, when people are unbearable, and when troubles are unexplainable

Q: what are some specific examples of the above situations? what is it about these situations that call out our perseverance?

According to James 1:2-4, what reasons are given that we are *to be encouraged* when we encounter trials and difficulties?

John Maxwell said, “Your problem is not your problem”, but how you think about and respond to your problem is the issue. What are some perspectives we may have toward problems that are the real problem?

In a complementary passage (read Romans 5:3-4), what other benefit is introduced that gives helps us in our journey of faith?

Character — Q: How would you define or describe character?

OUR PART IN GROWING CHARACTER WHILE PERSEVERING

1. Understanding God’s Vision for Us

As you read through the following passages, *create a character profile* that is to increasingly descriptive of an intentional follower of Jesus Christ. Compile a single list of both what our lives are to increasingly be present and what are to increasingly be absent in our lives. Make a single list from these Scriptures (don’t record repeated traits):

Galatians 5:22-23 Ephesians 4:31-5:4 Colossians 3:8-14 2 Peter 1:3-11
1 Timothy 2:2-12 James 3:2-12 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Q: As you look over the list, what thoughts come to your mind as you think of your life?

Read Romans 8:28-29. While 8:29 gives us God's purpose/goal/vision for us, 8:28 hints at the means that God will use. How does knowing God works through "all things" encourage you? How does it comfort you if the "all things" were painful experiences?

2. Asking the Holy Spirit to Diagnose Our Soul-Condition

Read Psalm 139:23-24. Are you reluctant to ask God this question? why or why not?

Read Jeremiah 2:13. What "cisterns" are you tempted to dig?

3. Initiate Character Growth Practices

What spiritual practice do you find particularly helpful in growing your character? Look at the PDF "Growing Character" tool, on the middle section of page 2, for a good method of developing a specific part of your character. Try it this week...?

4. Be Tutored by Real Life Experiences

Difficulties are not necessarily the best teachers — processed difficulties are. When feelings/speech/attitudes/actions are opposite to Jesus' character, what questions might help to unearth what is really going beneath the surface of immediate situation?

e.g. why am I so angry? (hurt? spiritually lethargic? un-joyful?)

e.g. other questions??

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER...