

## *Perseverance in* **MISSIONAL LIVING**

### Lesson 3 – Psalm of Ascents 129

*God has called every Christ-Follower and every local church to...*

God's MISSION ... the big picture of God's plan.

Do MISSIONS ... the global part of God's plan.

Be MISSIONAL ... the daily practice of God's plan.

*Last week – The **Power for Missional Living** comes from God not us ... by faith, bearing fruit, with eternal fulfillment.*

*Today – **Perseverance in Missional Living.***

Definition – **Perseverance:** Steady persistence in a course of action or a purpose ... *especially* in spite of difficulties, obstacles, or discouragement.

#### **Psalm 129**

Verse 1-2 – “they have not prevailed against me.”

Verse 3-4 – “The Lord is righteous” – He did not forget them! He loosed the bonds and *freed them!*

Verse 5 – *Put them to shame and full retreat (reversal of fortune)!*

Verse 6-7 – *Let them be worthless and wasted!*

Verse 8 – *May they be rejected and no one show them the courtesy of inclusion in the blessing.*

Verses 5-8 can be viewed as *statements of confidence* rather than wishes.

Psalm 97:7, 6:10

**The pain ... followed by deliverance ... followed by confident request ... a picture of persevering!**

*What does this mean to us?*

**I. Perseverance comes from \_\_\_\_\_ the God of \_\_\_\_\_.**

God has a history of delivering his people from their enemies.

*The wicked have not \_\_\_\_\_.*

God has **never** let His people disappear! We must find encouragement in this history!

*The Lord has \_\_\_\_\_.*

Matthew 16:18

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

“On this rock I will build My church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

Example: Caleb – Numbers 13-14, Joshua 15.

II. Perseverance comes from \_\_\_\_\_ to the God of the \_\_\_\_\_.

Courage \_\_\_\_\_ when we pray.

This was not shallow optimism.

They sang/prayed with a courage that welled up from a real faith ... based on experience with God and based on their confidence in God.

Building courage through prayer may require giving \_\_\_\_\_.

Luke 23:34 Acts 7:60

The suffering is not the real issue. *What we do with it* will determine our path.

Bitterness, hatred, revenge.

Forgiveness that allows God to build our courage to persevere.

Example: Paul and Silas – Acts 16:16-34.

III. Perseverance comes from \_\_\_\_\_ in the God of the \_\_\_\_\_.

Our confidence grows in \_\_\_\_\_.

Our confidence must sustain us when deliverance is not \_\_\_\_\_.

We may not be delivered from every trial as soon as we pray ... or ever in this world.

But at the coming of the Lord, He will settle the score!

Cling to His \_\_\_\_\_. They are as secure as His \_\_\_\_\_.

Matthew 16:18 – Jesus: “On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall **not prevail** against it.”

John 10:28-29 – Jesus: “I give them eternal life, and they will **never perish**, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.”

2 Timothy 1:12 – Paul: “I **know** whom I have believed, and am **persuaded** that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.”

We are a light shining in darkness.

Proverbs 4:18-19 “The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble.”

We are to shine in a darkness that does not want any light ... a darkness that does not even realize they are in darkness.

We are outsiders ... pilgrims ... unwanted by the mainstream. But we have a hope! We have a confidence that is grounded in the promises of God!

**Perseverance** is not a pleasant topic. But in our lives today ... in our society today ... we must have **perseverance** to carry forward the Word of God to a world in need.