

Perseverance – Autumn (1)

1. Job <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-T2PUIGXXw>

The first, and perhaps most popular story of perseverance that comes to mind, is the epic story of Job. His example was one of extreme pain and sorrow. Yet through it all, Job stayed true to God and his faith.

I suggest you read the story for yourself, in its entirety, but I'll hit the highlights.

Job was a faithful man, blameless and upright. He served God and was a diligent follower. Satan wanted to prove a point to God, that he could break man's will. So he asked if he could torture Job and God allowed it.

The only restriction God placed on Satan was he could not take Job's life.

In the course of one day, Job was told by different servants that all his belongings and possessions, livestock and ten children had been killed or destroyed by natural disasters or thieves.

Despite all this, Job still praised God, even in his sorrow.

Next Job was afflicted with terrible skin sores and yet, he persevered and praised God. In his grieving and illness, Job's friends came and sat with him. Despite the terrible advice they offered him, Job still praised God. But soon his praises turned to questions, bitterness and anger.

Job questioned how a just God could allow such terrible things to happen, even to a faithful servant.

God eventually intervened and implored Job to be brave. Realizing the power of God and overcome by it, Job recognized God's true character and accepted his own faults and constraints as a human. Job also intervened for his friends and God had mercy on them, despite their horrible advice.

God then had mercy on Job and restored his health and all his possessions, granting him twice as much as he had previously, more children and a long prosperous life.

Job's story is the ultimate test of faith and example of perseverance in the Bible. Even in the darkest times, through death and turmoil, questions of faith and God, Job was faithful and trusted God's plan.

2. Jeremiah <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3yqRcn-Tm1Y>

Jeremiah was blessed by God and tasked with preaching God's word to his people. He is an example of perseverance by continually preaching and teaching God's word, despite all that was done to him.

His faithfulness to share God's revelations to an unfaithful nation is our ultimate example to persevere in preaching, teaching, and sharing the Gospel. We must always endure to share the good news of Jesus with our lost world.

Jeremiah faced threats, prison and much more to share his faith and God's word. *Will we?*

Sometimes we forget how good we have it, especially in a country where we are ultimately free to say what we want. We have the choice to proclaim and share Jesus' Gospel to anyone we want, *but do we?*

We forget that there are Christians around the world who don't have that same freedom, who gather in house churches and basements to worship and share. They whisper and proclaim God's word at the risk of imprisonment and sometimes even death!

Yet we're too afraid to walk across the street and talk to our neighbor inviting them to church on Sunday.

We must be diligent to share the Gospel when God asks us. Jeremiah is a perfect example of this kind of perseverance in the Bible and we should follow his example, proclaiming Christ to those who would hear

3. Apostle Paul https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0p0W_Zbt1s

Paul is the ultimate example of perseverance in the New Testament.

No one has a better conversion story, going from killing Christians to becoming one, than Paul. Yet after his conversion, he became so on fire for the Lord that he faced many trials and persecutions.

No one details this better than Paul himself. In [2 Corinthians 11:23-33](#) (Click the link to read entire text), he lists some of the trials he faced.

2 Corinthians 11:23-33 New International Version (NIV)

²³ Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. ²⁴ Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, ²⁶ I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. ²⁷ I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. ²⁸ Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. ²⁹ Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?

³⁰ If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. ³¹ The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is to be praised forever, knows that I am not lying. ³² In Damascus the governor under King Aretas had the city of the Damascenes guarded in order to arrest me. ³³ But I was lowered in a basket from a window in the wall and slipped through his hands.

He was ...

- Imprisoned repeatedly
- Flogged
- Exposed to death again and again

- Received 39 lashes five times
- Beaten with rods three times
- Pelted with stones
- Shipwrecked three times

Paul embodies what it means to persevere in the faith. His letters in the New Testament tell his story and are a crucial example of perseverance in the Bible we must follow.

4. The Persistent Widow https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECZvzD_2728

Jesus tells us a parable (*story*) of a widow in [Luke 18:1-8](#) (Click the link to read entire text).

Luke 18:1-8 New International Version (NIV)

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

18 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ² He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. ³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’

⁴ “For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’”

⁶ And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”

It is a perfect example of perseverance in the Bible we can follow.

It details how a widow goes before a Judge, who doesn’t fear God or man. She pleads with the Judge to right a wrong done to her by her adversary. She continually pleaded with him to do so.

After a while, he caved and even though he didn’t fear God or man, he avenged her wrong doing. She essentially wore him down.

The parable goes on to highlight how God will avenge his children—*believers*—even more swiftly than an earthly judge. When we continually cry out to God, he hears us.

This is a story to show us that persistently pleading with God, talking with him, praying and persevering in faith, will reap His rewards. He hears our prayers and listens to His children.

Take heart brothers and sisters. God hears us!

This example of perseverance by a widow is told to show us that whatever our problems are, even if we think they’re too little or too big, should be lifted up to God daily. He wants to hear from us. So we should bring them to a God who is mighty enough to solve them.

5. Joseph (The Lion Children's Bible Pg 29-36)

In Genesis chapters 37–50 we read the story of Joseph. Joseph was his father's favourite—to the point where he was given gifts and privileges that caused his brothers to be jealous of him. To make matters worse, Joseph had dreams that his brothers would bow down before him and he shared this with them! Their hatred for him caused them to plot against him, fake his death to their father and sell him into slavery.

Joseph eventually found himself in slavery in Egypt. While in Egypt he showed great skill and talent. But far from home and his family, he was accused of something he didn't do and despite his innocence he went to prison. Eventually Joseph interpreted dreams for the Pharaoh, was released from prison and was raised to a position of great influence in the land of Egypt.

As time passed a famine came over the whole land and Joseph's brothers came to Egypt in search of grain and food to feed their families. Eventually they bow before this great man of Egypt, only later to discover the brother they rejected and wanted dead was alive and was the one who would deliver them in their time of need. God used everything that happened to Joseph to bring about his good plan, to rescue and provide for his people and to set in place events that would point to a greater rescuer and saviour to come in Jesus.

Joseph endured much hardship. In all of these circumstances he maintained his faith in God, he persevered and kept his hope in God's deliverance. Even in the hardest times he didn't compromise his character to get ahead but was patient, waiting on the Lord's timing. As we reflect on the life and character of Joseph, who showed great grit, it should cause to reflect on our approach and confidence in difficult times.

Joseph was by no means perfect, yet his faith and biblical grit is an example of one greater than him who was to come—Jesus Christ. Christ demonstrated true perseverance and determination for us on the cross. As Christian people we are able to find strength and hope in Jesus and challenge in the example of Joseph.

6. [Romans 5:3-5](#)

More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

7. Jesus

Jesus himself is the ultimate display of perseverance until death. He was born, lived a sinless life, and taught us how to live by His example. He persevered through agony on the cross, gave His life for a sinner like me, and offered the most perfect example of endurance as he finished the race of life perfectly.

Jesus Christ is the ultimate example of perseverance in the Bible.

We can read his story, through the gospels, and follow his example and he shows us how to persist through adversity, pain, sorrow, mountaintops and valleys.

If we follow Jesus' example ...

In what ways did Jesus persevere?