

Persevering Has Its Reward

By Dave Weatherly

Christianity is a love relationship between God and His children. Those who are truly saved have a deep love for God. The Apostle John writes of this love in 1 John 4:19: *“We love because he first loved us.”* A true believer has an ongoing love for God that holds fast in times of trouble.

Persevering through trials is proof of living faith (James 1:12). Our faith is tested to prove its genuineness, and by God’s faithfulness to us in trials, we have assurance of our Salvation. It is through God’s power that we are preserved, not by any work of our own.

*“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, **who through faith are shielded by God’s power** until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. **These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire —may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.** Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy”* (1 Peter 1:3-8).

What we need to do as believers is to trust in God’s promise that He will preserve us as Jude reminds us that Jesus *“...is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen”* (Jude 1:24-25). It is Jesus who keeps us from stumbling; no strength of our own will suffice.

Perseverance does not earn eternal life, but it is proof of true faith and love. James writes, *“Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him”* (James 1:12). The ultimate reward for the believer is the “Crown of Life.”