

And this gospel of the **kingdom** will be *preached* in all the **world.** MATTHEW 24:14

Perseverance is the Key to Provision & Protection

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Summary

God has deposited the Fruit of the Spirit in each one of us. The misconception is that we have to wait for the fruit because we don't think we have them all already. We have a deposit of the Fruit of the Spirit in us already! We have to develop that fruit in our lives. We develop it by using it! So what stops us from experiencing all that God has for us? We have an enemy who is going about like a roaring like seeking whom he may devour. We must not be ignorant; we must recognize that Satan has a method of bringing us down. The sole purpose of the enemy is to make the Word of God of no effect in our lives because our victory in God lies in the Word of God! When you find a word in the Bible that meets a need in your life, the first job of the enemy is to steal it. He comes in *immediately* to steal the Word! He wants you to think that the Word won't actually do what it promises. His method to bring you down is to put pressure on the Word. The only way for him to put pressure on the Word is to affect your life. By him affecting your life he distracts you from what the Word says! If he can distract you from the Word of God, he can steal your fruit. Our fight is not with the things that we see in the natural. The devil has brought about circumstances in your life to take us off of the truth. We need to know how to react. Sometimes we are asking God to take us out of something when God is wanting us to walk through it. So you're not going to be looking to run away from the problems, you're looking to overcome the problems. The Christian life is not an easy life. You are going to be hindered. Count it all joy when you go through the trial, test, and temptation. Why? Because we destroy the works of the devil by going through the trials and getting the victory! The fight is for us to be strong and endure; we need to persevere. The Bible says that tribulation "worketh" or "employs" patience. When tribulation comes we must employ the Fruit of the Spirit! Then we will experience the victory.

- A. God Has Deposited the Fruit of the Spirit in Each One Of Us
 - a. There is also the works of the flesh.
 - i. In Romans it says, do not walk in the flesh.
 - ii. If you are in the spirit make sure that you walk in the spirit.
 - b. There are qualities in the fruit of the spirit.
 - i. Like an apple that when you partake of it, it nurtures the body. Same with each of the fruit of the spirit.
 - c. The misconception that we have is that we have to wait for the fruit of the spirit that we don't have them.
 - i. We are waiting to partake of each fruit and one day you'll be perfect.
 - ii. We have a deposit of the fruit of the spirit in us already.
 - iii. They are in us, not external from us. We don't have to look for it as if we don't have them.
 - d. We have to develop that fruit in our lives.
 - i. We say we've done well because we have half of them but we haven't developed the others.

- ii. That's a lie from Satan because we have all of them.
- e. We've received the Holy Spirit so we have all that He comes with and all that He is.
- f. We have to access that fruit and use it.
- g. We think we have to learn the fruit of the spirit.
 - i. Naturally speaking there is a learning process, but
 - ii. you do have the DNA in you of faithfulness. You have to bring it to the front and develop it.
 - iii. How do you develop it? By using it! If you don't use what you have, you'll lose what you have. If you don't use it, you lose it. They have to be brought to the front and used.
- h. Why don't we use it?
 - i. There are other things that come into your life that put pressure on you that those things are in the forefront of your life so the fruit of the spirit is in the back.
 - ii. We don't want to bring the fruit of the spirit to the front. It's too hard to do that.
 - iii. We're so used to reacting. God requires that we use it. God requires us to stand up and use what we've got to be able to experience all that God has for us.
 - iv. We need to make sure that we walk in the spirit.
 - v. Make sure that you access these things. Make sure that you're using these things. Make sure that they are becoming a reality in your life.
- B. What Stops Us From Experiencing What God Has For Us?
 - a. We have an enemy who is going about like a roaring like seeking whom he may devour.
 - i. We must not be ignorant. He has a method of bringing us down.
 - ii. We must become aware of how the enemy comes in to bring us down.
 - iii. The sole purpose of the enemy is to make the Word of God of no effect in our lives. Because our victory in God lies in the Word of God. Because the Word of God has great and precious promises are to us!
 - iv. All of the Word speaks to all of us. All our needs our met in His promises to us. We access His promises, which is His Word.
 - v. Through the Word we can manifest the promises in His Word. Mark 4. Then they manifest in fruit. If I'm not feeling well, the Word has promises for health and healing. It's a spiritual promise. The Word is Jesus. Christ is the answer to every problem. I can take that Word and apply it to my life. The fruit then is healing and it manifests in my body.
 - b. There is a process that we need to be aware of.
 - i. There is also a way that the devil comes in to take you off of that process.
 - c. Paul says in 1 Thes. 2:18 "there were many times that I wanted to come to you but Satan hindered me and I couldn't come to you."
 - i. That Word "hindered" means: It's like driving on a road with mountains on one side and on the other size it's a big drop. You encounter a big crater in the road, there is nowhere else to go. The only thing you can do it turn around. That's what Paul encountered. He couldn't do anything. All he could do was go back.
 - ii. It doesn't mean that he's weak in faith. Satan comes into our lives to hinder us. To take us off of the purposes of God. Paul had a purpose, to preach the Word of God.
 - d. John 10:10 says "the thief comes but to steal, kill and destroy."
 - i. That's what he comes for. Jesus comes to give life.
 - ii. When you have a need in your life and you search the Word and you find a promise for that need. So you realize that need shouldn't be there because God has promised you in His Word. Because that promise is to meet that need.

- iii. When you look at your life and there are things that shouldn't be there. You have to go to the Word of God and find that promise that meets that need. In the Word lies everything to meet your needs.
- iv. When you find that Word, the first job of the enemy is to steal it. He comes in immediately to steal the Word!
- v. He comes in first by a lack of understanding. If there is not revelation then it is gone.
- vi. He is consistently putting on the pressure! He wants you to think that the Word won't actually do what is promises. He wants to put doubt and fear.
- vii. He has a method and a way to bring you down. It's to put pressure on the Word.
- viii. How does he put pressure on it? He can't put pressure on the spiritual Word. The only way is to affect your life. By him affecting your life he distracts you from what it said! So if the Word said that you are healed, he is going to make you feel even worse to steal that Word! It brings doubt because you feel worse than before you even found that Word! That's the tool of the devil! He puts pressure on that Word. He wants you to not say that you're healed anymore. If he can distract you from the Word of God, he can steal your fruit. He does it to pressurize you to take you off of the Word so that you don't experience the fullness of the Kingdom of God in your life!
- C. Our Fight Is Not With The Things We See In The Natural
 - a. Everything you think you don't like is not actually the thing you don't like. That's not the problem. So the sooner you realize it, the sooner you can engage your enemy and reap the fruit in your life!
 - b. We go about life and we don't see things happening so we get upset with all these things.
 - c. The devil has brought about circumstances in your life to take you off of the truth. All of the frustration that we feel in our lives doesn't come from that liberated truth.
 - d. You need the fruit of the spirit of long suffering.
 - e. The devil wants you to walk in the flesh. To see things in the natural. To live by my feelings. If you just walked by your feelings it would be a crazy world that we live in.
- D. We Are Going to Be Hindered in Our Christian Life
 - a. 2 Cor. 12:7 Paul talks about how a messenger from Satan was sent to buffet him.
 - i. "Buffet" means hindered.
 - ii. All of this to take Paul off of his purpose.
 - b. Jesus said that they hated him, don't think they won't hate you.
 - i. All those things that He suffered, you're going to suffer too. If Jesus suffered, you're going to suffer.
 - ii. The Christian life is not an easy life. You are going to be hindered. You are going to be buffeted. You are going to be stoned in some way.
 - c. The enemy is putting pressure on your life consistently to take away what God has for your life.
 - d. That is why we become mediocre Christians. We don't know how to respond. We need to know how to react. We need to know what we are actually experiencing.
 - i. I am not actually experiencing a bad way. I am experiencing Satan taking me away from a bad marriage. You are not experiencing lack of finances. You are experiencing the pressure of Satan taking you away from a life of abundance.
 - ii. How you see yourself is what you will experience.
 - iii. You have got to recognize that Satan is pressurizing you. The pressure takes you away from the Word of God. Your thoughts will go off of the Word. It will be on your circumstances.
 - iv. The problem is a lack of understanding of what's going on in your life.

- E. We Need to Exercise the Fruit of the Spirit
 - a. When David was tired of running from Saul, David was getting weary of well doing.
 - i. He could kill Saul but that was the anointed of God.
 - ii. He was tired of running and doing the right thing so he runs away.
 - iii. David encouraged himself in the Lord.
 - iv. He employed the fruit of the spirit that was in him. Then he recovered everything!
 - v. We must learn these lessons from the life of David, that when the pressure is on, there is something that needs to be employed.
 - b. There is something that we have to bring out of us.
 - c. Sometimes we are asking God to deliver us from something but God is wanting to strengthen us through it.
 - i. We're asking God to take us out of the fire and the waters and God wants us to go through them.
 - ii. To go through these circumstances it requires a certain attitude. Obviously if God wants you to go through the fire then He thinks there's something in you that won't allow you to be burnt.
 - iii. Christ is in us so obviously God thinks you can go in the fire! The Holy Spirit is in us. The Fruit of the Spirit is in us.
 - iv. There is an attitude to employ that gives us the strength to go through our circumstances.
 - v. So you're not going to be looking to run away from the problems, you're looking to overcome the problems. That's what God wants for us.
- F. A Good Soldier Can Endure Hardship 2 Timothy 2:1-12
 - a. Paul is saying to Timothy, endure hardship as a good soldier.
 - b. If you're a soldier without hardship you're not a soldier at all.
 - c. He chose you to be a soldier, therefore chose you to go through hardship.
 - d. Count it all joy when you go through the trial, test, and temptation. Why? Because He found you worthy; strong enough to go through it and overcome it. He thought you had enough fruit to be able to do it.
 - e. What is the word gospel?
 - i. Good news. What is the good news? Trouble. You're going to suffer.
 - f. He allows you to go through the trouble. God doesn't give you trouble.
 - i. He wants you to go through the trouble. He thinks you've got something in you that will take you through the trouble.
 - g. Vs. 12 It's through His suffering that He reigned.
 - i. There is no suffering with faith people.
 - ii. He wants you to go through the suffering. God doesn't want to take you out of it.
 - iii. In going through it, you destroy the devil. You can't destroy him by hopping, skipping and jumping around him.
 - iv. It's for a greater purpose. You can't do it if you can't endure. Keep your focus on what the truth is.
- G. We Need to Count it All Joy When The Trouble Comes
 - a. If it gets harder and harder you can get more and more victories! SO count it all joy!
 - b. We have to reconsider what we are asking for. "Lord take me out!" But He wants you to go through!

- i. Don't you think if He could part the Red Sea, He could have translated them out? He wanted them to go through. The pressure is on. There is walls of water beside you. There are chariots beside you.
- c. The fight is for you to be strong and endure. I believe! Satan you won't take me off this promise! I believe the promise! The promise is what I'm standing on. We know that is the tool of the devil. We war not against flesh and blood... The fight is taking place within us.
- H. Perseverance
 - a. The definition of perseverance: continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition : the action or condition or an instance of persevering : steadfastness
 - b. Perseverance is patience.
 - c. Romans 5:1 says, "We glory in tribulations knowing that tribulation worketh patience (steadfastness)."
 - i. We thought it was tribulation makes us patient. That is not what its saying.
 - ii. Tribulation "worketh" or "employs" patience.
 - iii. When tribulation comes there is something that must be employed.
 - iv. You bring the fruit of the spirit out which is patience and perseverance and work its full course. Then you will experience the victory.
 - d. You can quote all the scriptures, all the prayers but if you don't have patience, you won't win.
 - e. If you don't employ the fruit of the spirit in your life, it won't work.
 - f. The fruit of the spirit are the things we find hardest to use. All of them are found in love.
 - g. God is saying let's employ the fruit of the spirit in our lives and then we will have victories in our lives.

Scripture References:

- Romans 8
- Galatians 5:22-23
- 1 Peter 5:8
- Mark 4
- 1 Thessalonians 2:18
- John 10:10
- 2 Corinthians 12:7
- 1 Samuel 30:6
- 2 Timothy 2:1-12
- James 1:2-4
- Ephesians 6:12
- Romans 5:1