

Let's Talk CHANGE DEVOTIONALS

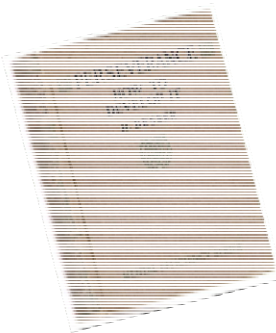


A product of Celebrate Change Ministries
www.CelebrateChange.org

TROUBLE PRODUCES PERSEVERANCE (PART 1)

Dr. Vanessa Dantzler Ussery | March 30, 2016

"And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character and character, hope." Romans 5:3-4, NKJV



A biblical definition of perseverance is, 'continuance in a state of grace to the end, leading to eternal salvation.' It is obvious one does not develop perseverance just be accident. It is developed by being challenged in one's life. As a young girl my mom had me to read a series of books that focused on mental efficiency, one being "Perseverance How to Develop It" by H. Besser. The title page in the book says, "Success attends him who determines to persevere." The very first chapter states, "Perseverance is that faculty which gives us the power to accomplish a piece of work without allowing ourselves to be turned aside from our purpose either by initial difficulties involved or by the obstacles that multiply themselves as we progress with our task." This faculty, as it's called, is obtainable to anyone who

chooses to use it in life. I believe it is critical to develop it if one is determined to succeed in life but more importantly to succeed in kingdom living.

The word of God says tribulation produces perseverance. I chuckled when I read that because most of us avoid tribulation if possible and resent it when it comes our way. Another word for tribulation is trouble. I don't know anyone who likes trouble. I know some who like to cause trouble, but even they don't like it when trouble comes to them. Nonetheless, it is necessary for us to change our mindset about trouble wherein we accept it as a tool to reveal how determined we are to successfully finish our race in life.

If trouble causes you to redirect your focus away from living for Christ and find an easy way out, then you'll realize that you lack perseverance. However, if trouble causes you to pursue Christ more tenaciously and seek Him for grace to come through the challenge, then it is teaching you how to remain focused on your goal which should be to see Christ in peace one day.

Trouble's role is to distract you from reaching your goal or prompt you to stay on course. In which mindset have you been living? Is trouble producing perseverance or an insurmountable problem? Is it time for you to change how you think?

Residing in Los Angeles, CA, Dr. Vanessa Dantzler Ussery is the Emeritus Pastor of Home Assembly Church in Los Angeles, is the founder of "Celebrate Change Ministries" and the author of "My Be Attitude: Who Be You?", which is available online in softcover or eBook at MyBeAttitude.org, Xulon Press, Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Dr. Ussery is available for national speaking engagements, empowerment seminars, and lectures. For more information, CelebrateChange.org | Info@CelebrateChange.org | 866-232-8176.

LIKE us at [Facebook.com/CelebrateChangeMinistries](https://www.facebook.com/CelebrateChangeMinistries) | FOLLOW us at [Twitter.com/VanessaUssery](https://twitter.com/VanessaUssery)