

The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind

Study Guide

Bill Johnson

PRESS THROUGH WITH PERSEVERANCE

Then He (Jesus) put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly (Mark 8:25).

If Jesus had to pray for a blind man more than once for him to receive healing, we should also recognize the need for perseverance when it comes to enduring uncertainty. Too many give up the fight and come into agreement with their circumstances instead of persevering for a promise.

This is where accusation and offense set in. We accuse God of giving us the problem and theologically conclude that He allowed it or gave it to us for some divine purpose. This is false. Likewise, we become offended with God because we perceive that nothing is happening or giving way in the situation. This is also a wrong perspective for us to embrace. Uncertainty demands persistence and perseverance. If Jesus needed to pray again for someone's complete breakthrough and healing, we need to follow His model.

When we find ourselves in those uncertain seasons of life, we are like the disciples in their moment of failure—where they prayed for a demonized boy, but nothing happened (see Mark 9:28-29). They were the most miracle-experienced people on earth at that time. No one had seen more and done more than they, and yet they came up against something for which they could get no solution. This is still true today. We may find ourselves facing problems and not knowing where the tools are to bring about the solution. But that doesn't mean the problem is insurmountable. There is power in resolving in your heart that God is good all of the time, and that His will for healing and wholeness does not change, despite what we see in the natural.

This is what fuels your attitude of perseverance. The opposite is giving up and concluding that, "Just because we could not set the boy free from demonic torment, it was not God's will for him to be delivered at all." This is how some respond today when immediate results do not come in response to their prayers or risks of faith.

How do we endure uncertainty, resisting the temptation to accuse God or become offended with Him? Persevere. Press on. Persist. We are only able to persevere to the extent that we are intimately acquainted with God's character. His nature backs up His promises. When we know that the One who promised is also faithful, it does not matter what opposition, resistance, or uncertainty comes against us. We cling to the anchor of truth that the God who promised is also faithful to bring His promises to pass.

TRANSFORMATION THOUGHT

It is essential for us to persevere and persist to experience the promises of God; by giving up, we consent to the circumstance and deny ourselves the potential of a breakthrough.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How can perseverance and persistence be classified as essential tools for warfare when dealing with circumstances in life?
2. Recall a testimony where you prayed for something/someone and, rather than happening instantly, the miracle came through perseverance. Why was it important that you did not give up, even during those times of uncertainty?

TRANSFORMATION PRAYER

God, You are faithful. Just as You are faithful, Your promises and Your Word are faithful. I cling to them in every situation for they sustain me. They sustain me in uncertainty. They sustain me through questions. They sustain me through waiting. Your goodness empowers me to keep persevering and persisting until Your promises come to pass.