

# The Power of Persistence

## Philippians 3:10-14

### **Philippians 3:10-14 (NASB)**

<sup>10</sup> “That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;

<sup>11</sup> in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained *it* or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

<sup>13</sup> Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead,

<sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Everyone desires success. Simply wanting it, however, won't guarantee achievement. That's why many people fail to reach their goal: They encounter hardship and give up.

So, let's discuss one characteristic needed to accomplish what you set out to do: Persistence is the combination of strong desire and willpower. Paul exemplified this capacity to stay on course in the face of difficulty and refuse to quit. He was passionate about sharing the gospel with both Jews and Gentiles across the known world. [Acts 20:24 NASB](#) records his purpose: “**But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.**”

Though he encountered tremendous obstacles like shipwreck, prison, physical punishment, and constant danger, the apostle never quit ([2 Corinthians 11:23-28](#)).

### **2 Corinthians 11:23-28 (NASB)**

<sup>23</sup> “Are they servants of Christ?—I speak as if insane—I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death.

<sup>24</sup> Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine *lashes*.

<sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep.

<sup>26</sup> *I have been* on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from *my* countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren;

<sup>27</sup> *I have been* in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

<sup>28</sup> Apart from *such* external things, there is the daily pressure on me *of* concern for all the churches.”

What motivated Paul to persevere amidst struggles? **First**, he had a clear God-given goal and trusted that the Lord would enable him to achieve it. **Second**, the apostle felt indebted to share the life-changing truth of salvation. **Third**, he knew the devastation awaiting those who do not know Jesus.

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Paul had his eyes fixed on his purpose, which he so valued that no circumstance could deter him. Ultimately, he achieved what almighty God had ordained.

The Father has great goals for His children. Striving for anything less will neither fulfill us nor achieve what He's planned in our life. Once His direction is clear, we should passionately pursue God's purposes with the Holy Spirit's strength and guidance—especially when obstacles arise. Don't give up!