Endurance/Perseverance - Maintaining the ability to withstand hardship, adversity, or stress; to remain firm under suffering or misfortune without losing hope or giving up.

Study the following passages carefully according to the instructions given in Character Traits Bibles Studies Introduction document. Then answer the questions below.

Matthew 10:22 All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

Luke 9:51 As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.

Acts 2:25 David said about him: "I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Acts 5:38-39 Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God."

Acts 20:24 However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me--the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

Romans 5:3-5 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Romans 15:5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus,

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Galatians 6:9-10 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

2 Thessalonians 1:4 Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.

2 Timothy 2:10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

2 Timothy 4:5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.
**Hebrews 10:35-36** So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

**Hebrews 11:26-27** He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.

**Hebrews 12:1-3** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

**James 1:12 (NIV)**

12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

Notes and Questions:

1. Many of those who lose heart and give up do so because of misplaced hope. List some examples of misplaced hope.
2. What can we learn about values from the above passage?
3. Why is it important to have the right kind of values if we are to finish well?
4. Some people don’t finish well because they feel that God has let them down. What are such people failing to see and understand?
5. What promises and provisions does God make so that we can endure?
6. What was it about the first disciples that made them “Unstoppable”? What do you need to do and or change so that you can join the company of Christ’s unstoppable disciples?

**Patience** - Bearing pain or trials calmly or without complaint; not hasty or impetuous; steadfast despite opposition, difficulty, or adversity.

Study the following passages carefully according to the instructions given in Character Traits Bibles Studies Introduction document. Then answer the questions below.

**Psalms 37:7** Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

**Romans 8:25** But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

**Colossians 1:11** being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully

1 **1 Thessalonians 1:3** We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 **2 Thessalonians 3:5** May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.
**1 Timothy 1:16** But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.

**Hebrews 6:15** And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

**1 Peter 2:20** But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

**Revelation 1:9** I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

**Revelation 2:19** I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

**Revelation 14:12** This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus.

Notes and Questions:

1. Why is patience so important?
2. Is it possible to be passionate and patient at the same time?
3. List all the ways in which we are expected to be patient?
4. Explain the difference between patience and resignation?
5. While it is true that we must be about our Lord’s business and that calls for urgency (John 9:4). Often, waiting and letting some time pass is invaluable. List some examples of where that is true.
6. Believing in God’s promises gives us some insight as to how some things will turn out? Start making a list of what God has promised you? How might this help you to be more patient?
7. Time is a very precious and God given commodity. What does it take to use time wisely and yet be patient?
8. God gave His people the Sabbath. How might patience, Sabbath keeping, and ability to properly pace and balance our lives be related? What applications of these truths do you need to make?