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BASIC CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

A Study of the Articles of Faith



Fort Washington Baptist Church
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SESSION 54

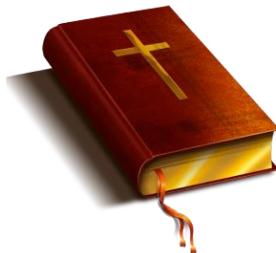
XI. OF THE PERSEVERANCE OF SAINTS

We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and that they are kept by, the power of God through faith unto salvation.¹

According to Article XI:

1. **Baptists believe** that the Scriptures teach that such only are real believers as endure unto the end.
2. **Baptists believe** that the Scriptures teach that their (real believers) persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors.
3. **Baptists believe** that the Scriptures teach that a special Providence watches over their (real believers) welfare.
4. **Baptists believe** that the Scriptures teach that they (real believers) are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

The Doctrine of Perseverance of the Saints



Introduction:

In our prior lesson we learned that Baptists believe that the Scriptures teach that such only are real believers as endure unto the end...either the end of their physical life in this life or the end, the Parousia, the second advent of Christ. “Real believers” have perseverance and therefore will not be swerved from loyalty to Christ despite the various trials and sufferings they may bear for having faith in Christ. “Real believers” patiently wait for the promises of God to be fulfilled, to be realized in their life, not giving up faith in Christ or faith in God to keep His Word --- regardless of the various tests and trials they go through that challenge one’s faith (**Matt. 24:1-51**). The Scriptures reveal that despite persecution, oppression, and ill-treatment by others for the Name of Christ, “real believers” endure to the end, not disowning or denying Christ. They endure/persevere, patiently wait for the return of Christ, not giving up faith, enduring to the end, until the Son of Man comes (**Matt. 10:16-23**). Implied and understood is that perseverance is faith that endures through trials, that keeps believing in Christ and the promises of Christ through difficulties, through hardship, through persecution, through all that one might suffer for the Name of Him Who endured suffering for our salvation.

¹ [Articles-of-Faith.pdf \(nationalbaptist.com\)](http://Articles-of-Faith.pdf (nationalbaptist.com))

In this study, we'll study a second fact about **Perseverance of the Saints**. **Baptists believe** that the Scriptures teach that real believers persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors. In the Gospel of Luke, Christ shared a parable (a practical illustration with spiritual and eternal implications) that illustrated some challenges believers experience. Those with perseverance overcome those challenges.

“Now when a large crowd was coming together, and those from the various cities were journeying to Him, He spoke by way of a parable: ⁵“The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell beside the road, and it was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the sky ate it up. ⁶Other *seed* fell on rocky *soil*, and when it came up, it withered away because it had no moisture. ⁷Other *seed* fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out. ⁸And yet other *seed* fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as much.” As He said these things, He would call out, “The one who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

9 Now His disciples *began* asking Him what this parable meant. **10** And He said, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest *they are told* in parables, so that while seeing they may not see, and while hearing they may not understand.

11 “Now this is the parable: the seed is the word of God. **12** And those beside the road are the ones who have heard, then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved. **13** Those on the rocky *soil* *are* the ones who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and *yet* these do not have a *firm* root; they believe for a while, and in a time of temptation they fall away. **14** And the *seed* which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked by worries, riches, and pleasures of *this* life, and they bring no fruit to maturity. **15** But the *seed* in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word with a good and virtuous heart, and hold it firmly, and produce fruit with **perseverance**.

I. Those with perseverance do not have the Word of God taken away from their heart by the devil (Lk. 8:11-12).

Jesus said, “Now this is the parable: the seed is the word of God.¹² And those beside the road are the ones who have heard, then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved.” The Word of God is *the seed* that goes out through preaching, through testimonies, through evangelism, and through witnessing about one’s life in Christ. The heart is *the soil* where the Word of God is planted. Whenever the seed is planted, the devil is *awakened* to ensure that the Word of God is of no benefit in the heart of the hearers of the Word of God. The devil comes and takes away the Word of God from that heart...for one reason...the devil does not want anyone to believe the Word of God and be saved. Ultimately, the devil wants no one to believe God or to have eternal life with God!

Question: The question is always, what enables the devil to take the Word of God from the heart of those who hear the Word of God?

Answer: In Matthew’s Gospel (13:18-19), in the parallel account of this parable, we learn the answer.

18 “Listen then to the parable of the sower. 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand *it*, the evil *one* comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one sown *with seed* beside the road.

Point: When someone hears the Word of God and does not understand it, he/she becomes vulnerable to the evil one coming and snatching that word away from the heart, so the hearer does not believe and is not saved. One cannot believe what one does not understand. Therefore, it’s incumbent upon those who sow the Word of God, to make it plain, so hearers can understand and believe, giving the devil no opportunity to come and take away the Word of God. This is spiritual warfare. Those who sow must understand that the devil wants no one to understand the Word of God and believe unto salvation...and watches for when he needs to attack

to take away the Word of God from someone's heart. **Those with perseverance do not have the Word of God taken away from their heart by the devil.**

Question: Can you recall a time you heard the Word of God and left not understanding what you heard? What did you do with that Word that you heard? How did you feel?

Fill in: So that hearers understand the Word of God, those who sow the Word of God _____.

II. Those with perseverance in times of temptation do not fall away (Lk. 8:13).

Jesus said, ¹³Those on the rocky *soil* are the ones who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and *yet* these do not have a *firm* root; they believe for a while, and in a time of temptation they fall away.”

There are reasons that some people fall away from faith in the Word of God and do persevere. When they heard the Word of God, they received the Word of God with joy. This is wonderful. They understood the Word of God. They received the Word of God. They believed the Word of God. They had joy hearing the Word of God. However, they did not have a firm root. The seed was planted but the seed did not have time to grow so that roots could go deep in the heart. From the time the person believed, he/she faced temptation, lacking deep roots in the faith. What was the temptation? Matthew records Jesus saying,

“The one sown *with seed* on the rocky places, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no *firm* root in himself, but is *only* temporary, and when affliction or persecution occurs because of the word, immediately he falls away (**Matt. 13:20-21**).

Point:

The temptation *to fall away from faith* comes in the form of affliction or persecution because of the Word of God. When criticism comes, when suffering comes, when rejection comes, when hurtful actions come, when the loss of opportunities come, when being ostracized come, and other kinds of ill-treatment because one believes in Christ, then temptation to fall away from faith and commitment to Christ come, because one's roots in the faith are not deep. When you're a new believer, the joy of having believed maybe short lived if one is persecuted and mistreated because of having believed the Word of God and to avoid being ill-treated the temptation to fall away becomes great.

Questions: How does someone grow deep-roots in the faith so that he/she does not fall away in times of temptation? How much time is needed for one to grow roots that can sustain them from falling away? What can you say to someone who you know had received the Word with joy but now appears to have fallen away?

III. Those with perseverance, after hearing and receiving the Word of God, do not waste away (Lk. 8:13).

Jesus said, “And the *seed* which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked by worries, riches, and pleasures of *this* life, and they bring no fruit to maturity” (Lk. 8:14).

Some will hear the Word of God, understand the Word of God, believe the Word of God, and not fall away through temptation, but tragically will waste away through deception. They'll be in Christ, yet they'll do nothing in Christ. They'll waste away bringing no fruit to maturity...accomplishing nothing for His glory...making no difference in the Kingdom. The worries of this life, the riches in this life, and the pleasures in this life will consume them, preventing them from

being productive for the Kingdom of God. The Word of God will prove to be unfruitful in this one's life. Jesus explained,

“And the one sown *with seed* among the thorns, this is the one who hears the word, and the anxiety of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful” (**Matt. 13:22**).

Question: How do you protect your heart from being consumed with the worries, riches, and pleasures of this life?

IV. Those with perseverance, after hearing and receiving the Word of God, produce away ([Lk. 8:13](#)).

Jesus said, But the *seed* in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word with a good and virtuous heart, and hold it firmly, and produce fruit with **perseverance**.

Those with perseverance hear the word of God, receive the Word of God, do not fall away, do not have the word of God taken away, and do not waste away...they produce away. Their lives are productive for the Kingdom of God. The word of God is fruitful in their lives.

Question: Someone who I admire for their fruitfulness for the Kingdom of God is _____.
