



*Divinely Blessed & Restored*

# PERSEVERANCE®

Submitted By: Rev. Doris B. Ryans

*Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.*

I Peter 4:12-13

At some point in time, we all face trials and tribulations. While it is probably difficult to see anything positive in the midst of difficult times, we must remind ourselves of what the scripture tells us about these difficult times. "...*think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; ...*" Yes, in the midst of your challenge, you don't need to ask "why me?" Your trial serves, as a confirmation of your relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and a by-product of your relationship is your being a "partaker", "sharing" in Christ's sufferings. Reminding yourself of this special relationship should help you preserve and endure. Still not encouraged ..... perhaps looking at the life of a man who truly faced trials and tribulations, and how he faced this time in his life will help.

Job, one of the greatest examples of a righteous man was blessed beyond measure. He was a prosperous farmer and had thousands of sheep, camels and other livestock. He had a large family and many servants. In today's setting, he would be considered to have "arrived". However, without warning, Job's life was turned upside down.

You see, unbeknownst to him, Satan had come to God – claiming that Job in all of his riches only trusted in God, and only recognized God because he had his wealth and everything was going well for him. Basically, he was saying Job was a fair-weather believer (like a fair-weather friend) with him when the going is good, but gone as soon as the going gets rough.

Satan threw out a challenge to God. In Job 1:11 he says: "*But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.*" God responded by granting Satan permission to test Job after which several calamities began to happen in Job's life. In Satan's first test, thieves stole his livestock, fire burned up his crops, a storm came and blew the house down on all his children and they were killed. Next, Satan afflicted Job with boils that covered him from the crown of his head to the bottom of his feet. During these challenging times, Job became overwhelmed by all that had happened to him, and began to complain about what had occurred despite his righteous living. He became frustrated, doubting the value of the righteous life he had lived. During this time of suffering, Job wavered back and forth, expressing loyalty to God and faith in his justice and other times expressing his frustration and feelings of abandonment.

His wife encouraged him to just “curse God and die!” At one point, Job begged God to just free him from his distress and discomfort and to just let him die.

Satan threw out a challenge to God. In Job 1:11 he says: “*But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.*” God responded by granting Satan permission to test Job after which several calamities began to happen in Job’s life. In Satan’s first test, thieves stole his livestock, fire burned up his crops, a storm came and blew the house down on all his children and they were killed. Next, Satan afflicted Job with boils that covered him from the crown of his head to the bottom of his feet. During these challenging times, Job became overwhelmed by all that had happened to him, and began to complain about what had occurred despite his righteous living. He became frustrated, doubting the value of the righteous life he had lived. During this time of suffering, Job wavered back and forth, expressing loyalty to God and faith in his justice and other times expressing his frustration and feelings of abandonment. His wife encouraged him to just “curse God and die!” At one point, Job begged God to just free him from his distress and discomfort and to just let him die.

Certainly, Job reached a point where he wanted to denounce God, but he didn’t! He began to ask “Why me?” and received no answer. Finally, God spoke to Job but He never answered the big question “Why?”. Instead he confronted Job with the need to be content without knowing why he was suffering. He wanted Job to know his faith in God, and his outworking of the situation in his favor was more important than an answer to “why.” Thus Job had to dig in, endure, trust and believe in God’s perfect outworking of the situation. Job’s reward for keeping the faith was restoration, the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.

What can we learn from Job’s story? As Christians, regardless of what we are going through, we have to persevere and remember that if the Lord brought us to it, He’ll take us through it. A person of faith does not faint, they persevere. That means they don’t give up, they don’t lose heart. They remain faithful, having absolute trust and confidence in God’s power [His power, His wisdom and His goodness]. Regardless of how things look, a conscience decision must be made to trust God continually, day after day, hour after hour, and minute by minute.

So, as you encounter the inevitable trials and tribulations of life, do not be discouraged, remember that you are a child of the King. Remember that how you behave as you go through your trials and tribulations is a testimony of your relationship with God. Do others see an attitude of defeat? Do they see an attitude of perseverance? They should see an attitude of perseverance because as the Word tells in John 16:33 “*...In the world ye shall have tribulations, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*” This serves as your assurance that with God on your side, you have all you need to overcome your trials and tribulations. So do not faint, for with perseverance you will see the victory!!!

### **HAVE YOU STARTED YOUR JOURNEY WITH CHRIST?**

Our purpose in this article and daily scriptures is to encourage a heart-to-heart relationship with God. If you do not know God in a personal way, we invite you to make the first step today to receive God’s love and the salvation that only Jesus Christ can give. Here are five steps you can take to receive salvation:

1. Recognize you are a sinner and need salvation. The Bible tells us “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23).
2. Repent of your sins. Sin separates us from God. By confessing your sins and turning from them you are forgiven. The Bible says: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (I John 1:9).
3. Believe in Jesus. God sent His Son to die so that He could pay for all our sins. The Bible says: “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life: (John 3:16).

*Continued on page -3*

4. Receive His Salvation. Jesus Christ is a gift you must receive and welcome to live in your heart. He promises: "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God: (John 1:12).
5. Confess your belief verbally. The Bible assures "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved: (Rom. 10:9).

You now have been born again! Tell some else your good news and connect yourself with a church home as soon as possible. God Bless and Keep You!

**Divinely Blessed & Restored**

P.O. Box 31-1405  
 Detroit, MI 48231  
 Ph: 313-566-0944  
 Fx: 313-566-0945

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Doris B. Ryans – President  
 (Executive Director)

Joyce D. Williams – Vice President  
 Asst. Executive Director

Zenell B. Brown – Secretary  
 Legal & Grants

Colleen V. Ealy – Treasurer  
 Site & Program Coordination

Internet Website:  
[www.divinelyblessedandrestored.org](http://www.divinelyblessedandrestored.org)

Jason Coleman – Article Graphic  
 Designer/Webmaster



# February

**COFFEE, TEA & THEE ®  
 CHRISTAN BOOK CLUB**

Meet and Discuss. It's not about you It's about God!  
 by: **Rebecca Florence Osaigbovo**  
**February 7 – March 27, 2008**  
 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. @ Panera Breads

**2<sup>nd</sup> Women's Retreat**

*My Jesus Is .....Everything!!*

**He is My All in All!**

At  
**Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church**  
**February 8 – 9, 2008**

*He is the key to knowledge, He is the wellspring of wisdom, He is the foundation of faith. He is the doorway of deliverance, He is the pathway to peace. He is the roadway of righteousness, He is the gateway to glory, He is the highway to happiness. He is All in All* Anne Graham Lotz

**Keynote Speakers**

**Rev. Jane Pitts  
 &  
 Rev. Doris B. Ryans**

**Make sure that you check our website for updates and upcoming events!!**