

# **FAST Lesson 5B:**

## **A Real Man Looks beyond This Life – Perseverance**

John Kain, 2010

- I. Life on this earth is sometimes very difficult. God does not promise that our life here will be easy and comfortable at all times.
- II. When things are going well for us, it may be easy to be content and hopeful and to love God and the people around us. But we also sometimes become complacent and lose perspective of what is really important to God.
- III. Challenging times – sickness, disappointment, failure, mistreatment by others, natural disasters, accidents – rock our world and test our character. We don't choose to have these things happen, but they do. And after all, the bottom line is that none of us live forever within these bodies and in this world.
- IV. A wise man recognizes that trials are an important part of life. God does not promise an easy life on this earth – in fact, he calls us to persevere (to persist steadily in our faith over a long period of time and especially despite problems or difficulties).
- V. How do we stand our ground, keep our confidence, and live by faith in the middle of difficult times? As with so many things in the Christian life, the key seems to be in our perspective (point of view, understanding, and attitude produced by wisdom).
- VI. Knowing that God never abandons us, that he wants the very best for us, that he is always in control, that he knows all about our suffering – there is power in these thoughts because they are true.
- VII. God will always provide the strength and always show us the way – our part is to keep focused on him and to not give up on the very God who made us and loves us more than we can imagine.

**“Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering.** Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. **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. For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay. But **my righteous one will live by faith.** And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him.” But **we are not of those who shrink back** and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.”

(Hebrews 10: 32-39)

“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.**” (Hebrews 12: 1-3)

“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but **those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.** They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” (Isaiah 40: 28-31)

**“Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love** to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.” (Deuteronomy 7:9)

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. **Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete,** not lacking anything.” (James 1:2-4)