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**Title:** Holy Determination

## Introduction

Live in an era of unprecedented speed.

“Immediate” is the norm of life.

We expect to get what we want, when we want and it is usually NOW.

The Biblical virtue of perseverance is so rare today.

But God has not change neither has His Word and His ways.

**Perseverance is still the way of life for every believer and every assignment from God.**

Today, I would like to see **perseverance** as **Holy determination**.

## Why Holy determination?

- Because we are people of destiny. And as people of destiny we are given an assignment.
- Since our assignments are from God, it is a holy calling.
- All assignments from God to His children are significant and purposeful. Anything of value takes time and goes through testing.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:11-13)

When we are persuaded that God is the origin of our assignment, **we are convinced of at least two things:**

- He will entrust us with something bigger than life therefore it will be beyond our human ability to accomplish
- He who gave us the assignment will enable us to work through all the challenges, calmly, confidently with joyful hope that we will succeed.

“The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it” (1 Thessalonians 5:24)

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful” (Hebrews 10:23)

“So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. 36 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised” (Hebrews 10:35-36)

## I. Let Us Look at Some Examples From the Bible

These men and women determined to accomplish their assignments in spite of:

- **Holy determination is Job** attending the funeral of his ten children, losing his wealth, his health and listening, to his wife who had a sharp negative tongue – **“Curse God and die.”**
- **Holy determination is Job** declaring with determination: “Though God slay me, I will come forth as pure gold.”  
Job had an upright character but through his struggles, we observe how an upright man behaves in the midst of tragedy/failures. That is how the glory of God is displayed.
- **Holy determination is Nehemiah** rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem when powerful men organized a slander campaign to stop the building project.  
He made it clear that nothing was going to stop him from what God told him to do. The wall must be built. The wall was rebuilt to the glory of God through the **Power of Holy determination.**
- **Holy determination is Noah** building the ark for 120 years with all humanity **laughing** at him. His generation had never seen rain.  
It took perseverance to put the animals into the boat.
- **\*Perseverance is Naaman** dipping himself not once or twice but 7 times before his skin was cleanse of leprosy.
- **Holy determination is Queen Esther** taking the risk to appear before King Xerxes to save her people, the Jews.
- **Holy determination is Ruth**, a foreigner in Judah, gleaning the field day after day in humility. Holy determination got her a husband, Boaz and ultimately into the lineage of our Savior Jesus Christ.
- **Perseverance is Joseph** in the pit, in Potiphar’s house and in prison, true to God and true to himself. Perseverance brought Joseph to the palace and to rulership.
- **Perseverance is Jacob** wrestling all night with the Angel till he received his blessing.

## II. Apostle the Paul Taught Us the Power of Holy Determination as He Lived His Life

**Paul’s holy determination was sustained by the call to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles.**

The divine purpose of God for Paul’s life kept him faithful and fearless in the midst of challenges.

Known to be the greatest missionary of his time, the Apostle Paul taught us the power of perseverance as he lived his life fulfilling God’s purpose.

Included in his planting many churches through his missionary journeys were the **following experiences:**

- beaten 3 times by the Romans whip leaving his back a disfigured mess of scars
- shipwrecked
- stoned and left for dead, his body as bloody mess
- betrayed by his dearest friends
- living in the hell of relentless scandal
- appearing before the church bound in chains
- walking into one prison after another

Paul penned in victory

“We've been surrounded and battered by troubles, but we're not demoralized; we're not sure what to do, but we know that God knows what to do; we've been spiritually terrorized, but God hasn't left our side; we've been thrown down, but we haven't broken” (2 Corinthians 4:8, 9 (The Message))

### **III. Finally, the Supreme Example of Holy Determination Is the Crucifixion of Jesus**

**Holy determination** is Jesus in Gethsemane.

His soul overwhelmed with sorrow pleads with His Father ... ‘if it is possible let this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will but as you will.’ This he prayed 3 times.

**Holy determination** is Jesus carrying the cross to Mt. Calvary being mocked, ridiculed, whipped all the way.

**Holy determination** is Jesus hanging on the cross, bleeding from His head, His sides, his hands and His feet.

By all appearance, His mission had failed miserably.

But 3 days later ... a Champion of champion arose from the grave

The resurrection changed everything, **the redemption plan** that began in Genesis 3 **is secured.**

Death, hell and the grave have lost their power.

Sin and sickness defeated.

Salvation has come to all men, thus a new kingdom has come on earth.

### **Conclusion**

**Holy determination is a decision.** A decision to walk is worthy of our calling.

“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received” (Ephesians 4:1)

Holy determination is sustained by our devotion and gratitude to God.

1 Corinthians 5:14 – it is the love of God that compels us.

There comes a time in every life when quitting looks good.

“Jesus replied, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62)

It is at this point ... “So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?” (Hebrews 13:6)

Many of the great achievements in the world were accomplished by tired and discouraged men/women who kept on working.