

## Week of May 9, 2021: A Perseverant Woman



### Discussion Questions Set #1

“She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.” (Proverbs 31:25, 30)

- “A quarrelsome wife is like the constant dripping of a leaky roof.” (Proverbs 19:13)
- “Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.” (Proverbs 21:9)
- “Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and nagging wife.” (Proverbs 21:19)

In sermon, it was suggested that the cultural definition of a “strong woman” has changed from a more biblical definition including perseverant to one that posits that feminine strength seems to mean combative, sassy, insolent, disrespectful, undignified and quarrelsome behaviour.

1. In what ways might we see this shift in definition at work in our world?
2. Why do you think such a shift might have occurred? What are the motivations behind such a shift?
3. Discuss some of the possible outcomes if such a shift in definition were to take deep root in our world?
4. How might the church – you and I – respond to this shift in definition? What problems do you envision might be encountered in forwarding a biblical vision for feminine strength?
5. Do you think women in the church generally view strength as biblically forwarded?
6. Do you think men in the church generally actively support and encourage the women in their lives to become Proverbs 31 women?

### Discussion Questions Set #2

And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:6-8)

#### DEFINITIONS:

1. Perseverance is as the ability to continue onward even under difficult circumstances. It focusses on standing firm – unchangeable steadfastness – in the face of difficulty and requires a patient endurance or a consistency in doing good.
  2. Persistence refers to the quality of stubbornly or resolutely continuing something in spite of opposition and generally desires to effect change in others through actions we undertake. It generally involves using repeated, unpleasant and increasingly annoying tactics to force change in others, while perseverance requires either. Persistence is proven successful when others respond to alleviate the annoying presence of stubborn behaviour. It is a more obstinate, quarrelsome form of perseverance.
1. Why might it be significant to understand that the parable told by Jesus in Luke 18 is not urging persistent prayer, but calling for perseverant prayer in light of God’s nature? What does this parable teach us about God? How does this knowledge change our approach to Him?
  2. Discuss how the following process might be different if we replace the word “perseverance” with “persistence”. Think about the place of “trust” or “faith” in this process.



### Discussion Questions Set #3

“They will be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me and that all will then go well for them and for their children after them. I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me.” (Jeremiah 32:38-41)

1. What place does “fear of the Lord” play in the development of perseverance and Christian character?
2. Discuss what the above passage teaches us about how a fear of the Lord is maintained. How does such an attitude persevere?