

PROV. 30:28 – LEARN FROM THE LIZARD

NIV: a lizard can be caught with the hand, yet it is found in kings' palaces.

NKJV: The spider skillfully grasps with its hands, And it is in kings' palaces.

Both of the translations teach the same lesson: “the triumph of persistence/ perseverance.

The key is it's _____-ability. It does not come from the surface on which it's walking – it comes from within _____.

A complementary sermon to today is Feb. 11, 2018 – Can we depend on you? How to develop faithfulness (another word for persistence/perseverance).

Two things make up “persistent faith” – faith and persistence/perseverance/ _____!

Heb 6:12 - We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

II Thess. 1:3,4 - ³We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. ⁴Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.

James 1:2-6 - ²Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

Rev. 13:10 - Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

Rev. 14:12 - Here is the patience of the saints; here *are* those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

Frequently asked questions: FAQ on faith:

1. What is faith? Heb. 11:1 (Living) – It is the confident assurance that something we want is going to happen. It is the certainty that what we hope for is waiting for us, even though we cannot see it up ahead.

(AMP) Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title-deed) of the things we hope for, being the proof of things we do not see and the conviction of their reality – faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses.

(Message) The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see.

Faith, at its core, is a _____ reliance on God.

2. Who has faith? Rom. 12:3 – “according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith”. Every _____ has been given the measure of faith. What have you done with yours?

3. What is the source of faith? Rom. 10:17 – “faith comes by _____, and hearing by the Word of God.” 2 Greek words translated “word” in English:

Logos – the sum total of God’s Truth. All of divine revelation.

Rhema – Rom. 10:17, Eph. 6:17 – this is the individual Scripture the Spirit brings to our remembrance for use in our time of need (a “today” Word).

It is essential to understand that a prerequisite of Rhema is spending time with the Logos!

4. How is faith supported? Patience/persistence/perseverance – James 1:3,4 – “you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

5. How is patience developed?

Rom. 5:3,4 - And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;⁴ And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

James 1:3,4 - because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

Trials don’t develop _____ – faith comes from the Word. Trials develop patience. But not just trials – or everyone would have faith!! But our _____ to the trials – “let patience have her perfect work...”

Titus 2:2 uses the phrase “sound in faith, love, and patience” – the word “sound” means “_____”.

FAITH is built by the Word – patience is built through tests and trials. Faith is developed by obedience to the Word even _____ the tests and trials come. But, through the storms, _____ is developed.

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

Learn from the lizard: Keep holding on!!!

1. Feed your faith through the Word, so the Logos can become your Rhema.

2. Let patience develop in your life – don’t try to short-circuit the process! When you are sound in faith and patience, you will receive what God has promised!