



There is an old story of the West about how cattle act in storms. Sometimes the storms took a heavy toll. They would start with freezing rains. Temperatures would plummet below zero. Then, bitterly cold winds would begin to pile up huge snowdrifts. Most cattle turned their backs to the icy blasts and they would begin to move downwind until they came up against the inevitable barbed wire fence. In the big storms, they would pile up against the fence and die by the scores.

But one breed always survived. Herefords would instinctively head into the wind. They would stand shoulder-to-shoulder, heads down, facing the icy blasts. As one cowboy put it, "You most always found the Herefords alive and well." I guess that's the greatest lesson I learned on the prairie, just face life's storms.

The apostle Paul said in Philippians 1:19, "For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ." In II Timothy 1:7, he wrote, "For God hath not given us a spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." In II Corinthians 4:8-9, he also wrote, "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair, persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed."

Christians facing life's storms together, shoulder to shoulder, encouraging one another and pray for one another, recognizing and responding to the power of the Spirit of Jesus in our lives is God's formula for the abundant life. The apostle Paul said **in Philippians 1:19, "For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ."** In II Timothy 1:7, he wrote, "For God hath not given us a spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." In II Corinthians 4:8-9, he also wrote, "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair, persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed."

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First Church of God

January 27, 2013

Sermon Outline

Pastor, Robert White

"Perseverance Conquers All"

Jeremiah 29: 4 – 14

Introduction:

Perseverance = Stick-to-itiveness ... continuing in spite of opposition.

Calvin Collidge said, "Nothing in the world can take the place of perseverance."

Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men

Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb.

Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts.

Perseverance and **Determination** alone are power."

Five Principles of Perseverance

Principle # 1

Jeremiah 29: 4 – 5

⁴ "This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce."

Key: Jeremiah was instructing the people to **prepare** for the long stay.

Question:

How is God asking His Church to prepare for the long haul?

Key: We need to continually prepare our **spiritual issues**

As though we could celebrate Christ return today, yet continually **work** and **serve** as though it will be many years before Christ's Return.

Principle # 2

Jeremiah says ... **participate**

Jeremiah 29:6 "Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease."

Key: God created "The" Church so His Children could be **involved** in His family.

Principle # 3

Jeremiah says ... **in Jeremiah 29:7** "Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

Key: Jesus told us to **love** our enemies.

You can do that as you:

Pray for them (**Matthew 5:44**)

Do good to them (**Luke 6: 27**)

Bless them. (**Luke 6: 28**)

Matthew 5: 4 3- 44 Jesus said

"There is a saying, Love your friends and hate your enemies, but I say "Love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you ..."

Principle # 4

Protect

Jeremiah 29: 8 – 9 "Yes, this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them." Declares the Lord."

False Teachings / Teachers:

1. Teach that Christmas need never **suffer**.
2. Teach that the Christian way is always **easy**.
3. Teach that enough **faith** will change the situation.

Key: Truth is ... **faith** can help you to **change** as you **face** the situation.

Principle # 5

Picture

Jeremiah 29: 10 – 11 "This is what the Lord says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. 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."

Key: In the midst of trial it is essential that perseverance has **picture**.

Key: You must believe that this trial or hardship will not last **forever**.

Conclusion:

Jeremiah 29: 12 – 13 "Then you will **call upon me** and **come** and **pray** to me, and **I will listen to you**. You **will seek me** and **find me** when you **seek me with all your heart**."