**Truth Sowers Life Group**

October 21, 2012

**God’s Secret Kingdom – Part Seven**

**Introduction:** So far, in our teaching on “The Secret Kingdom”, we have learned about two of the laws that operate in God’s Kingdom. Those were the “Law of Reciprocity” and the “Law of Use”.

The law we are going to look at today is the **“Law of Perseverance”**.

The word, “persevere” simply means to “hang in there”, “don’t give up”. The dictionary says, “To persist in or remain constant to a purpose, idea, or task in the face of obstacles or discouragement.” If you want to walk this Christian life and live a Godly life, I can promise you that you will suffer persecution. Even Paul told us that in 2 Timothy.

**2 Timothy 3:12**

*Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.*

We will not grow spiritually if we don’t have some Goliath’s in our lives!

If you want to live like everyone else in the world, there won’t be persecution but if you really want God’s blessing, there is a thing called sanctification that you must go through. You need to learn to live a holy life, a life that is pleasing to God. James talks about this when he talks about works.

**James 2:17 God’s Word Edition**

*Faith by itself is dead if it doesn't cause you to do any good things.*

We are not saved by works but if we REALLY come to know Jesus as our Lord and Savior, **we will want to change and live holy lives**.

Chickens are reproduced in eggs. As they come to term, the little chick begins to peck at the inside of the egg and it works and works until it frees itself from its confines. If you were to “help” the little chick by helping him crack his way out of the shell, it will kill him. He needs that struggle to survive. The same is true when a butterfly breaks free from its cocoon.

This also applies to us, as Christians. We struggle and wonder WHY we have to go through the things we do but God is always there to see us through those things. All of our struggles make us stronger in the end.

##### “When we finally understand that God is our SOURCE and our PROVIDER then we will no longer walk in fear on this Earth. Life becomes FUN because you realize you have absolutely NOTHING to worry about.

##### Casting all our CARE on Him because He CARES FOR US! 1 Peter 5:7

##### When we understand this, fear flees, depression leaves and JOY takes their place!”

1. Persevere – Don’t Give Up!

**Matthew 7:7-11**

*7“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 9Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!*

1. To operate in the Kingdom of God, we MUST learn how to operate in faith.
2. Faith is contrary, or “opposite in nature” to what we grow up learning.
3. The Kingdom of God DOES NOT operate like things do on Earth.
4. Jesus tells us above to Ask, to Seek and to Knock.
	1. Jesus never said we have to keep begging.

The Bible is clear that is we pray the prayer of faith, we will receive what we pray for.

**Mark 11:24**

*Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.*

Even though we are to believe we receive, WHEN WE PRAY, we all know that we do not always see the answer to our prayer manifest immediately. God’s timeline is not the same as ours. Look at what happened to Daniel.

**Daniel 10:12, 13**

*12Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. 13But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.*

You see, Daniel’s prayer was heard and answered the very day he prayed. But, Satan and his forces fought Michael and the other angel for twenty-one days until the answer could be delivered to Daniel.

1. Don’t give in to your enemy.
	1. Satan is our Adversary.
		1. Satan actually means “Adversary.”
		2. Every army first gets to know their enemy!
		3. We need to know the schemes of the devil.
		4. He is easy to know if we read the Bible.
		5. Satan’s scheme is to **“BE LIKE GOD.”**
		6. If Satan could read minds, he would have known that Job would have never cursed God.
		7. Satan is NOT an equal opposite to God.
		8. Satan will try to discourage you and get you to give up.
		9. Satan has no more power over your life than what you give him.
		10. Don’t give up on your faith.

**Hebrews 10:35, 36**

*35Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. 36For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.*

* + 1. Patience comes as we get into the Word of God.
		2. When we KNOW God has answered our prayer and that the answer will be manifest in HIS time, we will not worry!
1. People who did not give up.
	1. Abraham Lincoln
		1. Everything Lincoln did was a miserable failure but he kept at it and finally, arguably, became one of America’s greatest presidents.
			1. 1832 – Lost job and was defeated for state legislator in Illinois.
			2. 1833 – Failed in business.
			3. 1836 – He had a nervous breakdown. Finally elected to Illinois house.
			4. 1838 – Defeated for Speaker of the House, Illinois.
			5. 1843 – Defeated for nomination for Congress.
			6. 1848 – Elected to Congress but failed to be renominated.
			7. 1849 – Rejected for Land Officer.
			8. 1854 – Defeated for U.S. Senate.
			9. 1856 – Defeated for nomination as Vice President.
			10. 1858 – Defeated for U.S. Senate
			11. 1860 – Became President.
	2. Thomas Edison
		1. Took him over 6,000 tries to make the first electric light bulb.

On one occasion a young journalist challenged Edison saying to him, "Mr. Edison, why do you keep trying to make light by using electricity when you have failed so many times? Don't you know that gas lights are with us to stay?"

To this Edison replied, "Young man, don't you realize that I have not failed but have successfully discovered six thousand ways that won't work!"

* 1. Jon and Patricia Sharp

Jon and Patricia Sharp raced their Nemesis aircraft to nine consecutive years of victories in pylon racing. After those 9 years, they retired the tiny airplane and it now sits in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum. They had been working on a new aircraft. They had been developing a new aircraft, the Nemesis NXT (Neoteric experimental Technology). It is now offered as a kit plane for any of you that would like to build one.

The aircraft made its maiden flight in 2004 but was a major disappointment. Jon and Patricia believed in their design and kept working on it, trying to get it to perform like computer models showed that it should. They finally became the laughing stock of all the other pylon racers who were beating them day in and day out in air races. There was a serious crash on landing which almost made the Sharps give up but they persevered!

They kept working on their prototype aircraft and finally, four years later, they won their first race. They begin to not only beat the current records but they began to shatter the existing records and each time they flew, they broke another record.

“On Saturday, September 19, 2009, Sharp set another record with a speed of 406.051 mph. This is the first homebuilt aircraft ever to exceed 400 mph average race speed on the Reno course. On Sunday, September 20, 2009 Sharp set yet another record by winning the Super Sport Gold race at a speed of 407.061 mph. He also earned his 15th National Championship which was also a record thus completing the "Record a Day and Two on Sunday" Reno campaign of 2009. Jon Sharp announced his retirement from Pylon Racing on August 3, 2011 as the winningest pilot in history.”

**Conclusion:** God wants us to have faith. Faith is what pleases Him. All of us are going to have hardships in life, we will all have obstacles that we must overcome. God knew this and tells us this will happen. Why is it that some people seem to just float through life, seeming to have no worries, while others seem to be constantly on the edge of a nervous breakdown? If we would all truly believe that the Lord cares for us and that He will be with us through our trials and tribulations, we would not worry but would have joy in the midst of our trials. We need to judge ourselves. Where are you right now? Are you worried about how you are going to pay your bills? Are you worried about your health? God has many things to say about these things. As we get into His Word our faith will begin to grow and we will begin to live free from the worry of these things!

Scriptures about perseverance: 1 Chr. 16:11; Job 17:9; Ps. 37:24, 28; Ps. 73:24; Ps. 138:8; Prov. 4:18; Jer. 32:40; Hos. 12:6; Matt. 24:13; Matt. 10:22; Mark 13:13; Mark 4:3-8; Luke 10:42; Luke 22:31; John 6:37; John 8:31; John 10:28-29; John 15:4-9; Acts 11:23; Acts 13:43; Acts 14:21-22; Rom. 2:6-7; Rom. 8:30-39; Rom. 11:29; 1 Cor. 1:8-9; 1 Cor. 15:1-2; 1 Cor. 16:13; 2 Cor. 1:21; 2 Cor. 5:9, 15; Gal. 5:1; Gal. 6:9; Eph. 4:14; Eph. 6:13, 18; Phil. 1:6, 27; Phil. 3:16; Phil. 4:1; Col. 1:10, 22-23; Col. 2:7; 1 Thess 3:8, 13; 1 Thess. 5:21; 2 Thess. 2:15-17; 2 Thess. 3:13; 2 Tim. 1:12-13; 2 Tim. 2:1, 12; 2 Tim. 3:14; 2 Tim. 4:18; Tit. 1:9; Heb. 2:1; Heb. 3:5-6; 14; Heb. 4:14; Heb. 6:1, 11-18; Heb. 10:23, 35-36; Heb. 12:1-15; Heb. 13:9; Jas. 1:4, 12, 25; Jas. 5:10-11; 1 Pet. 1:4-7; 1 Pet. 5:8; 2 Pet 1:10-11; 2 Pet. 3:17-18; 1 Jn. 2:19, 27; Rev. 2:7-11, 17, 25-27; Rev. 3:5, 11-12, 21; Rev. 14:12; Rev. 16:15; Rev. 21:7-8; Rev. 22:11