

Perseverance

I delight to do Your will, O God and Your law is within my heart.—Psalm 40:8

Perseverance is a quality that allows you to continue trying to do something even though it is difficult. What is the most difficult thing you have done? Did you feel like quitting? I know I have. It is not the most difficult thing but losing weight is very hard for me and I often quit and have to start over again. Perhaps you can identify with a commitment to exercise and after a week or two you have quit. I see students drop out of college. Because it is hard, they quit. Most of us can identify a time we up because something was just too challenging.

In the spiritual life we face many trials and temptations. Sometimes it gets so difficult that we want to quit. David talks about waiting and crying to the Lord. Whatever his trial was it must have been terrible. He refers to God bringing him *out of a horrible pit, out of miry clay* (40:2). Perhaps you feel like you are in a horrible pit today. It may be physical, financial, emotional, or spiritual. Whatever the battle is, God cares about you. The Psalmist says in verse 5 *Your thoughts toward us cannot be recounted . . . They are more than can be numbered.*

You may wonder how David could have gone through the trials without giving up. He tells us in verse 8 *I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart.*

If you are weary and tempted to give up remember what David says in the last two verses of Psalm 40

*Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You;
Let such as love Your salvations say continually,
“The LORD be magnified!”
But I am poor and needy; Yet the LORD thinks upon me.
You are my help and my deliverance; Do not delay, O my God.*