

*Tristan Haas*  
*Hands Down, Perseverance Wins*

I was born with my thumbs in the wrong place. This made it hard for me to do simple things like write, hold a cup, or even tie my shoes. I learned to persevere at an early age because of my hands. I am glad that I learned that perseverance helps us as Christians grow in God, and we can do anything if God helps us. Plus, every Christian needs perseverance.

According to Webster's 1828 English dictionary, perseverance means persistence in anything undertaken. One time, I broke my arm and that helped me grow in God. I grew as a Christian because I prayed more than ever. In Romans 5:3 it says, "Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance." That means when God gives us a trial in life we learn to depend on Him to get through it. I think this is why God gives us tests in life, so that we can learn to depend on Him and grow closer to Him. I am glad that God helped me to persevere through my physical challenges.

Perseverance teaches us we can do anything with God's help. Before I had my surgery, I could not hold a pencil correctly. I trusted that God would help me, and now I can write very well. I usually have my penmanship paper posted on the wall at school because I get a perfect score. In James 1:3 it says, "Your faith will be put to the test. You know that when that happens it will produce in you the strength to continue." This teaches us that if we are willing to persevere through the trials God gives us, He will give us the strength we need to endure those testings.

Perseverance is a character trait that every Christian needs. We need perseverance so that we learn from the trials God gives us. In Hebrews 10:36 it says, "You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised." This verse means if we persevere through our trials in life, we will receive what God has promised, either here on earth or in heaven. There have been many Christians over time who have had to persevere, such as Abraham, the Israelites, Samson, David, Esther, Jesus, the Pilgrims, and modern missionaries. All of these people have received or will someday receive their reward in heaven for their obedience to God and for allowing His will for their lives. This teaches us to persevere no matter how bad our trials seem. We will be rewarded for our perseverance.

In conclusion, I believe everyone needs to persevere through their testings because it builds strong Christian character. Perseverance helps us grow in God and teaches us that we can do anything with God's help. That is why perseverance is such a necessary Christian character trait. If we do not learn from our trials, God will not be able to use us for His purpose. I challenge everyone to face the tests God gives them. If we do not, God will not be able to use us for his intention. Imagine, what would it be like if the whole nation learned to persevere?

Works Cited

Webster, Noah. *An American Dictionary of the English Language*. 1828. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1995.