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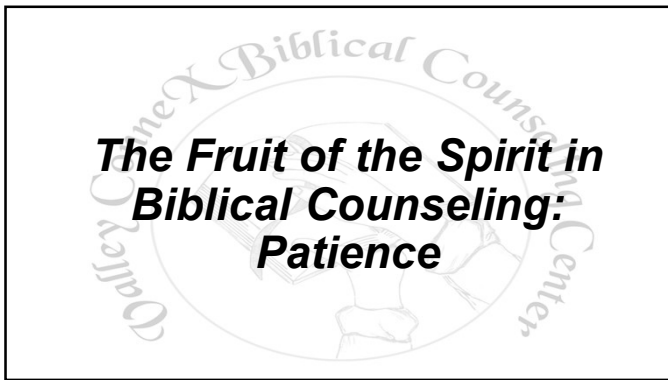
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The fruit of the Spirit

- <sup>16</sup> But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Galatians 5:16-25 (ESV)

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Observations

- We have two options:
  - Walk in the Spirit with the result that the fruit of the Spirit will form and grow in us.
  - Gratify the desires of the flesh with the resulting sinful behavior.
- Gratifying the desires of the flesh produces a chaotic and destructive array of behaviors.
- Walking in the Spirit forms a unified and ordered life portraying the character of Christ.

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*μακροθυμία*  
*makrothymia*  
 patience      Unruffled persistence

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Deficient Alternatives:

- Anxious persistence- David, Psalm 55
  - Heart Issue: Trust in God
- Resentful persistence-Jonah, Jonah 4
  - Heart Issue: Extending forgiveness
- Angry persistence- Moses, Numbers 20:2-13; Psalm 106:32
  - Heart Issue: Self-centered focus

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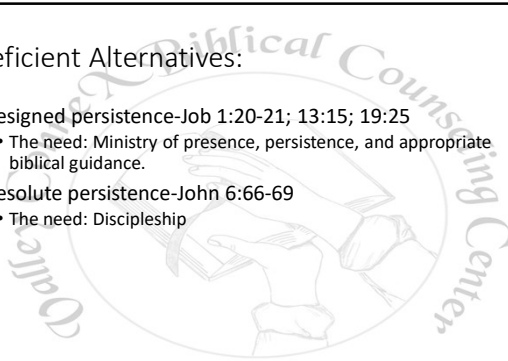
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Deficient Alternatives:

- Resigned persistence-Job 1:20-21; 13:15; 19:25
  - The need: Ministry of presence, persistence, and appropriate biblical guidance.
- Resolute persistence-John 6:66-69
  - The need: Discipleship




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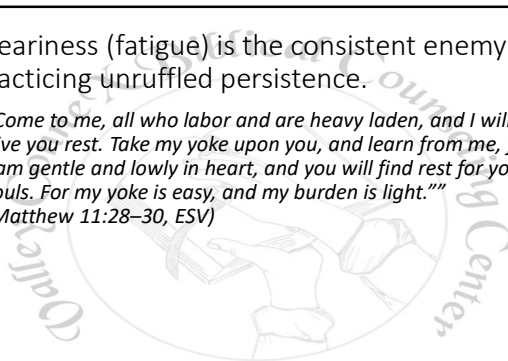
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7

Weariness (fatigue) is the consistent enemy of practicing unruffled persistence.

- *“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”* (Matthew 11:28–30, ESV)




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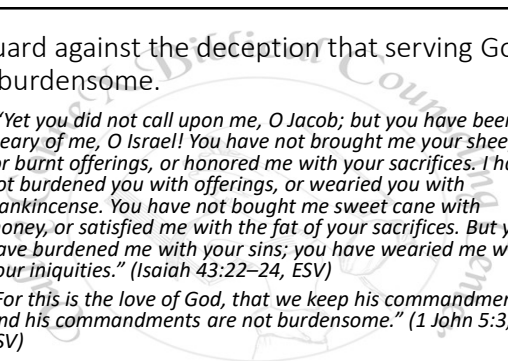
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Guard against the deception that serving God is burdensome.

- *“Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob; but you have been weary of me, O Israel! You have not brought me your sheep for burnt offerings, or honored me with your sacrifices. I have not burdened you with offerings, or wearied you with frankincense. You have not bought me sweet cane with money, or satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices. But you have burdened me with your sins; you have wearied me with your iniquities.”* (Isaiah 43:22–24, ESV)
- *“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.”* (1 John 5:3, ESV)




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9

Counsel and practice contrary to God's Word is burdensome.

- *"You felt secure in your wickedness; you said, "No one sees me"; your wisdom and your knowledge led you astray, and you said in your heart, "I am, and there is no one besides me." But evil shall come upon you, which you will not know how to charm away; disaster shall fall upon you, for which you will not be able to atone; and ruin shall come upon you suddenly, of which you know nothing. Stand fast in your enchantments and your many sorceries, with which you have labored from your youth; perhaps you may be able to succeed; perhaps you may inspire terror. You are wearied with your many counsels; let them stand forth and save you, those who divide the heavens, who gaze at the stars, who at the new moons make known what shall come upon you. Behold, they are like stubble; the fire consumes them; they cannot deliver themselves from the power of the flame. No coal for warming oneself is this, no fire to sit before! Such to you are those with whom you have labored, who have done business with you from your youth; they wander about, each in his own direction; there is no one to save you." (Isaiah 47:10-15, ESV)*

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Disobedience is burdensome.

- *"If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot." (Jeremiah 20:9, ESV)*

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Trust in the promises of God keeps persistent effort from becoming burdensome.

- *"Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." (Galatians 6:6-10, ESV)*

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Viewing your life in the context of God's activity guards against fatigue and bolsters unruffled persistence.

- *"Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.""* (Hebrews 12:3–6, ESV)

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Practicing unruffled persistence will keep us faithful to the consistent and accurate proclamation of God's Word even in a hostile environment.

- *"I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."* (2 Timothy 4:1–5, ESV)

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A picture of unruffled persistence in action.

- *"Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. And when they came to him, he said to them: "You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ."* (Acts 20:17–21, ESV)

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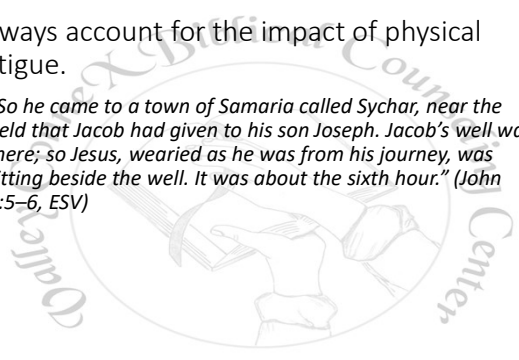
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Always account for the impact of physical fatigue.

- *“So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.” (John 4:5–6, ESV)*




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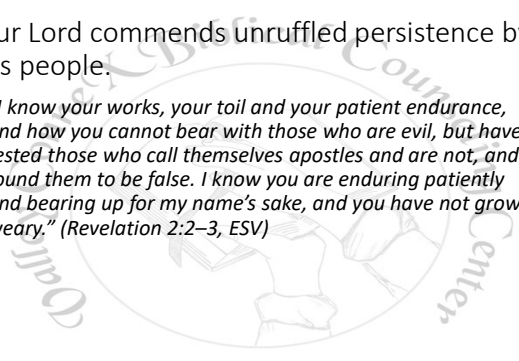
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16

Our Lord commends unruffled persistence by His people.

- *“I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name’s sake, and you have not grown weary.” (Revelation 2:2–3, ESV)*




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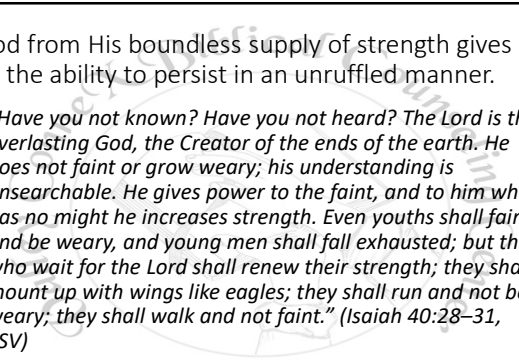
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17

God from His boundless supply of strength gives us the ability to persist in an unruffled manner.

- *“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:28–31, ESV)*




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