



Scripture nugget - Lord, grant me the grace of perseverance till the last day of my life

Do I find pleasure in the death of the wicked? Do I not rejoice when they turn from their evil way and live? And if the just turn from justice and do evil, like all the abominations the wicked do, can they do this evil and still live? None of the justice they did shall be remembered, because they acted treacherously and committed these sins; because of this, they shall die (Ezekiel 18:23-24).

We are saved by God's grace through faith, not by the merit of our good deeds alone. *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).* Our salvation is a free gift from God offered to everyone who accepts Christ as their personal Saviour. *For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life (John 3:16).* By our own human power, we are unable to redeem our souls as the cost of redemption is too high. Thus, in His great love and generosity, God the Father has willed that the precious Blood of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ be offered in the atonement of our sins. *No man can ransom even a brother, or pay to God his own ransom. The redemption of his soul is costly; and he will pass away forever (Psalm 49:8-9).*

God gives the grace of perseverance to those who asked for it (cf. Matthew 7:7). If we fall from grace and have no repentance, our souls cannot be saved by our previous good deeds. Thus, we need to persevere in grace and frequent repentance till the last day of our lives. St Paul assures us with great conviction that the supernatural power of the grace of Christ works in us mightily so that we can have the necessary perseverance to overcome all temptations, trials, difficulties and adversities. We can learn much from St Paul who had endured much sufferings and persecution for the sake of Christ and His Kingdom. St Paul had been imprisoned, lashed and beaten on several occasions, stoned once, ship wrecked three times, spent a night and a day in the open sea and faced frequent danger from rivers, bandits and people who wanted to harm him (cf. 2 Corinthians 11:24-26). *We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed (2 Corinthians 4:8-9).*

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, grant me the grace of perseverance to uphold the truths of Your Word even in the face of adversity. In a world that is growing in confusion and error, help me to live the truths of my faith fearlessly and witness to You in what I think, say and do. When I fall from grace, lift me up with the grace of sincere repentance and the desire to love You more ardently and serve You more faithfully. When I am dry in spirit and distracted, give me the grace to continue praying even if I no longer feel Your presence, remembering that You are always with me no matter how I feel (cf. Matthew 28:20). When it all seems futile and useless, help me remember how You felt when You said on the Cross: My God, my God why have You abandoned Me? Help me remember that just as Your Cross is the gateway to Your glory, so also will my cross bring me unending joy and glory! Let the mighty power of Your amazing grace always sustain me in close fellowship with You as I unite my heart to Yours. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.