



### **21-DAY FAST Devotional #4 – PERSISTENCE!**

**By Pastor Myron D. Atkinson**

Life is full of challenges; we all know that! What do we admire about someone who has overcome adversity? Usually it's persistence. If you have read through the life of Joseph in Genesis 37-50 you will find a person who was persistent. He was persistent in his faith and dependence upon God and he was persistent in life.

Whenever I think of persistence, I think of my brother Maurice. He is a person who, in spite of all sorts of physical issues, has kept his faith and not let his disabilities define him. He has Facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy which has been very debilitating for him. I've watched him over the years keep pushing and not giving up. His attitude has determined his altitude in that he is successful in his career, his marriage, and in life. Years ago when he was first diagnosed after joining the army, he was in boot camp and my mom recounts this story about a phone call she received:

***“When Maurice was in the Army I received a phone call from his commanding officer. He called to tell me Maurice was in the hospital and had been diagnosed with muscular dystrophy. He said he had been admitted because his legs gave out on a two-mile run. He told me that Maurice would not quit; he crawled until he finished the two miles. He continued to tell me of his commitment and perseverance in his pursuit of excellence. I am so proud of his determination.”***

What an incredible illustration of persistence! The storm has not let up for him but he continues to press on. He reminds me of my life verse found in **Galatians 6:9 (NLT)** **“So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.”** If you are going through a storm of life, **DON'T GIVE UP!!!!** Remember breakthrough is coming! Be persistent and remember **1 Corinthians 16:13 (NLT)** **Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong!** You are not alone in the battle! Our God is with you as well as a multitude of believers who are partnering with you in prayer. **Breakthrough is coming!**

**Challenge Question for today:** What one thing can you do today to be persistent in the challenge of life you are facing?

**Verse to look up:** Joshua 1:6-9, Matthew 28:20, Matthew 25:21, Revelation 22:12.

**Prayer for this week:** Dear Jesus, I ask that you will help me to fully depend on you in ALL things! Help me during this 21-day fast to learn to live a Home Run life! I pray not only for myself, but for my church, the staff, the elders, and all the attendees that we will sharpen our vision in 2016 to know Your desires, Your heart, and Your will. Help PFWC to depend on you in ALL things. Change my heart, change my home, change my church and let it begin with me!