

**Chapter 17 of the 1689 Confession of Faith: “Of The Perseverance of the Saints”,
Session # 10, “Perseverance and Prayer”, Presented by Pastor Paul Rendall
in the Adult Sunday School, on October 22nd, 2017.**

Paragraph 3 - And though they may, through the temptations of Satan and of the world, the prevalency of corruption remaining in them, and the neglect of means of their preservation, fall into grievous i)sins, and for a time continue therein j), whereby they incur k)God’s displeasure and grieve his Holy Spirit, come to have their graces and l)comforts impaired, have their hearts hardened, and their consciences wounded, m)hurt and scandalize others, and bring temporal judgments n)upon themselves, yet shall they renew their repentance and be preserved through faith in Christ Jesus to the end.

i) Matthew 26: 70, 72, 74; k) Isaiah 64: 5, 9; Ephesians 4: 30; l) Psalm 51: 10,12;

m) Psalm 32: 3-4; n) 2nd Samuel 12:14; o) Luke 22: 32, 61-62

Ephesians 6: 17-20 – “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints – and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

1. Things to do in relation to wearing and using the armor -

a. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints –

James 4: 1-12 – “Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”? But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.” Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?”

Often Christians do not see that their warring and fighting with other Christians, arguing with them, holding hard and unrighteous thoughts against them, judging them, and blaming them for things that have happened which have apparently prevented that Christian from getting what they have looked for out of life, will lead to Satan’s trying to take advantage of them, make them proud, selfishly ambitious, self-pleasing people. James says that they may pray but they are

praying amiss that they might spend it on their pleasures, and they not so interested in learning to do the will of God. Sometimes, then, they are drawn into worldly ways of thinking and doing things in order to attempt to get what they wanted in the first place, which God blocked, at least for a time; and they did not see that it was God's will for them at that point in their life that He might teach them His ways. In verse 5 it says – "The Spirit yearns jealously" for such a believer, and James tells us that He the Spirit can give a greater grace. He will give more grace to the Christian who is willing to submit to Him and will go about to learn to persevere in prayer in relation to their obedience to the word and will of God. This "all prayer" will lead the Christian to humble themselves in the sight of God and to draw near to Him. Persevering in prayer will lead him to resist the devil and his schemes in relation to the things which he wants most out of life. By means of persevering prayer he will cleanse his hands, purify his heart, and search for double-mindedness in his thinking. This double-mindedness is being torn between God's commandments in the word and the world's pull to do things in a purely selfish or sinful way. But having cleansed himself from all defilement of flesh and spirit, he will then be able to perfect holiness in the fear of God.