James 5:10-11

D-DAY TO V-E DAY

PERSEVERANCE implies both **<u>difficulty</u>** and **<u>delay</u>**.

This NT word *(hupomeno)* has less to do with <u>waiting</u> and more to do with <u>attitude</u> while waiting.

JESUS

All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved (*Mt. 10:22*)

 <u>Moral</u> perseverance... Keep your <u>conviction</u> when faced with opposition or peer pressure. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. *(Jn. 6:27)*

 <u>Spiritual</u> perseverance... Keep our <u>faith</u> when circumstances are unrewarding. Fix your eyes on Jesus... Who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame... Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary or lose heart. *(Heb. 12:2-3)*

 <u>Mental</u> perseverance... Keep your <u>goal/commitment</u> always in sight.

PERSEVERANCE... "the prophets" vs. 10)

Their <u>strength</u> was nourished by the <u>root</u> (God) rather than the <u>fruit</u> (people). Their commitment was to <u>truth</u>, rather than to <u>popularity</u>.

PERSEVERANCE... "Job" (vs.11)

Job questioned and challenged God. Yet he did not **blaspheme** God's name or motive.

Job's perseverance was not dispassionate, stoic, or questionless. It was not detachment from reality. It was trust in God so genuine and humble that it was stronger than death! "Though he slay me, yet I will trust him." (13:15)

Perseverance is not only a characteristic of <u>hope</u>, but of <u>love</u>!

Perseverance not only <u>communicates</u> conviction (to others), but it <u>produces</u> conviction (within me).

I am not tough because I persevere. I persevere because I am tough!