

One of the words that gets thrown around a lot in the area of Spirituality is "perseverance."

Perseverance takes as its root "severe" - meaning "strict" - and adding "per" in front of it adds the meaning of "very."

In a contemporary sense, "perseverance" means to be steadfast or constant in what you do. Reliable, or predictable ... Not prone to backing down in the face of adversity.

In today's readings, we hear first from the Book of Numbers. God has promised the Israelites the "land," but when they send men to reconnoiter ... to check things out ... they come back with tales of woe.

In essence, they don't trust God to stay with them should there be a conflict - nor do they think that God's power is capable of victory - despite the miracles they have seen since leaving Egypt. As such, they are condemned and are deprived of the land.

In the Gospel, we hear the opposite. A pagan woman approaches the Apostles, and annoys them so much that they go to Jesus - not asking for Him to help her, but rather to have her put out. Jesus tests her faith, and turns her down at first as well. She continues, and Jesus is amazed by her faith which allows for her petition to be granted.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us pray for a deeper Faith - that we might persevere in whatever God calls us to do - not relying on our power alone, but trusting in God's power to act in us and through us in our lives.