

## Endurance

Our recent study of 2 Tim. revealed the heart of Paul and how he remained faithful in the struggle for the faith and how endured in his own faith in the Lord's promises to him.

2 Tim. 1:12 – I know whom I have trusted and He has persuaded me that He is able to guard that which I have entrusted to Him until that day – Judgment Seat of Christ

2 Tim. 4:7-8 – fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith – now there is a crown of + R that the Lord will award to me on that day – JSC.

Paul endured incredible hardship in his 35 years of ministry, hardship that would crush the average believer (2Cor 11:23-28). He built knowledge of god's plan through the word & built inner strength by watching God honor His promises. He used endurance to continue trusting God through every obstacle & remained faithful in spite of adversity.

### 1. Definition & description of Endurance – patience, perseverance

**Definition:** **hupomone** – remain under the weight; stand firm under pressure; continue to trust God under adversity, continue to wait for God to honor His promises. Synonyms: perseverance, persistence, determination, doggedness, not gives up or quit. Patience: **hupomone** – patient with circumstances; **makrothumia** – patient with people

**Description:** **Rom 5:3-5, Jam 1:2-4** – endurance is built by trusting God's promises under the testing of different types of adversity; Rom 5 - **thlipsis** – afflictions, troubles, tribulation; Jam 1 **peirasmos** – temptations, circumstances tempting us to abandon faith

- Learn promises & principles → test: adversities → Faith cycle: learn, believe, apply, wait on fulfillment → God is faithful to promise → proof: evidence of God's faithfulness → persuaded He will always honor His word → increased inner strength from experience → able to endure greater/longer testing.
- Knowledge of truth + testing of every adversity + application of truth + God's faithfulness + evidence of personal experience = increased inner strength to run the race to the end → glorify God and be rewarded in eternity. Rev 14:12 – here is the endurance of the saints – keep commands/God & faith in Jesus
- Inner strength to endure in keeping God's word and trusting like Jesus

### 2. Endurance is necessary to do God's will in persecution of the devil's world.

**Persecution:** Heb 10:32-36 – after being enlightened – endured great struggle of suffering: public spectacle, insults, persecutions; share with others being persecuted; sympathy with prisoners; joyfully accepted seizure of property

Vs 35 – don't throw away your confidence/boldness → reward – confidence = endurance  
Vs 36 – for, need of endurance, having done God's will, receive what was promised

Different forms of adversity – Lk 21:15-19 – betrayal by family, execution, hatred by the world; 2Thess 1:4 – persecution from religion and government; Heb 10:33-34 – public insult & ridicule, tribulation, loss/property & family

- a. Endurance is one of the first virtues produced in sp. growth Rom 5:3-5, Jam 1:2-4
- b. Endurance enables us to remain under pressure waiting on God to act on His word.
- c. Endurance enables us to not lose heart under the heat of divine training Heb 12:5-11

### 3. Endurance is necessary to reach a state of maturity and produce fruit.

Jms. 1:2-4 – test/adversity à faith/word à fulfillment/word à endurance à mature

- Endurance enables us to stay in God's system to reach spiritual maturity
- Sp maturity is the normal Christian life which has become abnormal in our day

Lk 8:14-15 – Thorny soil – word choked by worries, pleasures, riches – no mature fruit. The good soil – good heart, holds fast and endures to bear fruit – 30, 60, 100 fold

- Believer dominated by OM belief system falls prey to worry, pleasure, riches
- Sp life stalls out and heart is redirected into worldly pursuits & pleasures

Jms. 5:11 – blessed is he who endures – Job – receive compassion & mercy

### 4. Endurance is pursued, learned and developed as we live the CWL.

1Tim 6:11 – pursue - +R godliness, faith, love, endurance, humility. **dioko** P.A.Impv – seek, chase, run after – make a personal goal to build endurance

- Adversity is an opportunity to build the inner strength to maintain faith. 2Thes 3:5 – may Lord guide your hearts – love/God & endurance of Christ

**kateuthuno** – guide, direct, remove obstacles; persevering heart of Christ. Rom 15: 4-5 – God gives endurance through the word à hope/confidence in our future. OT scriptures written for our endurance & comfort à might have hope

- Learned from word and developed as we use the word and see God's faithfulness Col 1:9-12 – God's power enabling endurance, patience, joy and gratitude to GF
- Filled w/knowledge, wisdom, insight à walk worthy, pleasing Him, bearing fruit, growing à strengthened by God's power enabling all endurance, patience, joy and gratitude to the Father who made us worthy for an inheritance in the saints.
- Endurance is developed as we learn to employ God's power to stand fast

### 5. Christian life is an endurance race not a sprint – run to win

Heb 12:1 – run the race set before us with endurance looking at Jesus who ran before us

Witnesses – OT examples of faith – endurance is related to persevering in faith

Lay aside every encumbrance – an obstacle – OM worldly goals and priorities

Most besetting sin – that which surrounds and controls – controlling sins

Let us run – **trecho** – push ahead, exert effort – admonishment to live CWL

### 6. Success in the Christian life is achieved by faithfulness – enduring to the end

1Cor 4:2 In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found faithful.

Found – evaluated based on performance; sum total of Christian service

Faithful – pistos – result of pistis (faith) – behavior based on consistent faith

Rev 1:5 Jesus, Eph 4:9 Onesimus, Eph 6:21 Tychius, Col 1:7 Epaphrus, 1Tim 4:17 Tim,

1Tim 1:12 – Paul: God considered me faithful, 1Tim 3:11 wives of deacons, 2Tim 2:2 commit the teaching to faithful men, Heb 3:2,5 Moses

- Endurance enables us to stay steady to the end of the race – keep running
- Faithful men/women consistently take responsibility for their role in the church
- Faithfulness to continue growing – take off OM – put on NM

**Luke 22:31 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; 32 but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."**

- Faith fail not – stop believing, trusting à turn away à return à strengthen others

## Examples of Endurance in the life of OT Believers

**Principal: Long-term, the Christian life has times of joy, loss, failure and times when God is quiet, making us wait on Him to move us to the next phase of service and blessing.**

**David – Anointed as the next King-** Goliath, promotion, military victory, marriage & prosperity – He lived in his own home with his wife and was a celebrated military leader

### **1. God allows us to go through times of loss: loved ones, prosperity, health, etc.**

**Loss:** Saul's favor, new wife, home, Samuel's leadership, Jonathon, became a criminal

- David lost everything & everyone, was alone in the cave of Adullam in just few days

**Principal:** believer requires endurance to be faithful during times of great loss

- These losses stuck in his gut – 2Sam 3:12-14 – give me Michal my wife

### **2. God allows us to fail by choosing to believe lies and act on the lies**

**Failure:** 1Sam 21:10-15 Fleeing Saul, He leaves the land & goes to Gath (home of Goliath) to blend in; believes he has to pretend he is insane to avoid being killed;

1Sam 27:1-12 David decides Saul will be able to kill him; goes back to Gath to work for Philistine king; takes all his men/families, pretends to work for Achish.

- Stops believing truth (anointed) believes lie (Saul will find me); goes over to the enemy & takes others with him; lives the lie of pretending to attack Israel; selfishly murdered men, women, children to avoid exposure.

2Sam 11 – Adultery with Bathsheba; murders Uriah to cover up his sin

- 2Sam 12 – God exposes his sin and disciplines him harshly

**Principal:** Believer requires endurance to recover from failure and regain sp. momentum

- David will recover and resume sp. Advance to greater levels of growth & service

### **3. God allows us to go through times when He makes us wait a long time on Him.**

**Waiting on God:** Wilderness Years - Leaves Gath and goes alone to cave of Adullam; his family came to him, those in distress, debt and criminals went to him and he made an army out of them; avoided Saul for years in the wilderness waiting to be king

Psm 42 – panting for God, why is my soul downcast? Where are you God?

Psm 43 – David mourns under the oppression of enemies – when will you deliver me?

- David struggled with discouragement & depression wondering what God was doing

**Principal:** Believer requires endurance to wait on the Lord during long quiet times

- God goes quiet to boil out OM beliefs/behaviors so that we can lay them aside
- The wilderness is the test of “No Man’s Land” – stretch before you take the land
- God has not abandoned you, He is allowing pressures of life to expose your heart

### **4. The CWL requires that we hang on to our faith and not stop growing & fighting**

**Promotion:** David is finally promoted to king in God's good timing; time of good and bad decisions but he never quit looking to the Lord and never quit growing

**Principal:** Victory is assured to the believer who endures by continuing to grow & recover

- David made good decisions – didn't help God by killing Saul (Ab & Hagar)
- David made bad decisions – fearing Saul & going to Gath

**David endured to the end of his life through all the ups and downs – didn't quit!!**