

Endurance

(Jn 16:33) Jesus describes the devil's world as full of **thlipsis** [trouble, stress, adversity, tribulation]. Life offers joys to be enjoyed & sorrows to be endured. Adversities are our challenges to overcome and opportunities for growth.

The Christian life is characterized in the Bible as a race to be run (1 Cor. 9:24; Heb. 12:1; 2 Tim. 4:7) and a struggle or an athletic contest to be fought (1 Thess. 2:2; 1 Tim. 4:9; 6:12; 2 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 10:32). Other prominent terms used of the Christian's life in the world are labor or toil or work (1 Cor. 3:8; 15:58; 2 Cor. 11:27; 1 Thess. 2:9; 2 Thess. 3:8) and testing or trials (Jam 1:2-4; 1 Pet. 1:6; 4:12). Obviously, no one can continue to run in the race, stand firm in the struggles of life, labor effectively, or handle the trials of life without endurance / perseverance.

1. Definition & description of Endurance – patience, perseverance

Definition: (hupomone) To remain under the weight; to stand firm under pressure; to continue to trust God under adversity, to continue to wait for God to honor His promises

Synonyms: perseverance, persistence, determination, doggedness, not give 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 and tribulation; (Jam 1) [**peirasmos**] Temptations and circumstances tempting us to abandon faith.

- **Learn promises & principles**

- Test: adversities

- Faith cycle: learn, believe, apply, and 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.

(Jam 1:2-4) **test/adversity** → faith/word → fulfillment/word → endurance → 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 beliefs 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 – receiving 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/Imp) [Seek, chase, run after] to 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** [To guide, direct, remove obstacles]; persevering heart of Christ

(Rom 15: 4-5) God gives endurance through the word → hope / confidence in our future. OT scriptures written for our endurance & comfort → 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 God, The Father

- Filled w/knowledge, wisdom, insight → walk worthy, pleasing Him, bearing fruit, growing → 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 is found faithful.

Found Evaluated based on performance; sum total of Christian service
Faithful Pistos – result of pistis (faith) – behavior based on consistent faith

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|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| (Rev 1:5) | Jesus, |
| (Eph 4:9) | Onesimus, |
| (Eph 6:21) | Tychius, |
| (Col 1:7) | Epaphrus, |
| (1Tim 4:17) | Timothy, |
| (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 → turn away → return → strengthen others

Examples of Endurance in the life of OT Believers

Principle: 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

Principle: The 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

Principle: 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

Principle: 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

Principle: 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!!