

# ENDURANCE

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## I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Endurance brings to mind events such as the:
  - 1. Tour de France - 2287 miles over 20 days, first place finishes in about 92.5 hours.
  - 2. Ironman Triathlon - swim 2.4 miles, bike 112 miles, run 26.2 miles in about 8.5 hours.
  - 3. This requires great physical strength and endurance.
- B. Endure - to abide under, to bear up courageously, to be steadfast, long-tempered, to suffer evil, patience.
- C. As we can see, the word “endurance” involves a lot of different aspects of our life. We must call upon all of our resources if we are to “endure”.
- D. What we want to investigate is our spiritual endurance. Are YOU, am I, spiritual fit?

## II. GOD EXPECTS US TO ENDURE.

- A. Just as a person running a race must finish before he can receive a prize, so it is with us as Christians, we must endure to the end if we want to receive eternal life
- B. Hebrews 12:1,2 “ Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”
  - 1. Let’s see what this passage is telling us.
    - a. Run with patience. (patience = endurance, perseverance)
    - b. Looking to Jesus. (our goal, our focus, our example)
    - c. Jesus endured the cross. (He is now at the right hand of God)
- C. We are in a spiritual race. Our goal? To be with Jesus in heaven. But we have an adversary, the devil, who is trying his best to keep us from finishing, enduring to the end.
  - 1. And some will not endure.
    - a. II Timothy 4:3,4, “ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

## III. HOW DO WE ENDURE?

- A. I Corinthians 9:24, Paul says, “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.”
- B. So how do we obtain (endure)?
  - 1. Obedient to God. Acts 5:29, “Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, we ought to obey God rather than men.”

2. Do will of the Father. Matthew 7:21, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”
3. Walk in the Light. I John 1:6,7, “ If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”
  - a. walk in the light = following God’s Word.
  - b. Psalms 119:105, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”
4. Abide in God’s love. Jude 21, “Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”
5. Do not depart from God. Hebrews 3:12-14, “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end.”
6. Remain faithful. Revelation 2:10, “... be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”
  - a. NOTE: these verses we have mentioned (and others we will mention) does show that there is the possibility of apostasy.

#### IV. ENDURING WILL NOT BE EASY.

- A. Job 14:1, “Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.”
- B. We are called to suffer. I Peter 2:21, “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.”
- C. Some claim that when you become a Christian:
  1. you will receive financial gain.
  2. you will be healed.
  3. you will not suffer.
    - a. they say if you suffer it’s because you do not have enough faith or you have sinned.
- D. God never did promise us that we would not suffer as a Christian.
  1. Jesus said He would bring a sword. Matthew 10:34, “Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.”
    - a. What does a sword do? Inflicts pain and suffering. Our sword is the Word of God, Ephesians 6:17, and when we stand for Truth we are going to suffer.
  2. II Thessalonians 1:4,5, “So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer.”
  3. Philippians 1:29, “For unto you it is given in behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake.”
  4. II Timothy 3:12, “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”
  5. When we do suffer, make sure it is for righteousness sake. I Peter 3:17, “For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

## V. EXAMPLES OF ENDURANCE

### A. Job

1. Job 1:2-3, “And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters. His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.”
2. Job had everything going his way. Then he suffered, not for what he had done wrong but for what he had done right.
  - a. Job 1:8-12, “And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and shuns evil? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.”
  - b. Job 1:13-19, Job lost all of his children, all his oxen, asses, sheep, camels, and servants.
3. Notice how Job reacted. Job 1:20-22, “Then Job arose, and rent his robe, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, and said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.”
  - a. How would you and I have reacted?
4. Job endured. Through all of his pain and suffering he remained faithful to God. And God blessed him even more.
  - a. Job 42:12,13, “So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses. He also had seven sons and three daughters.”

### B. Joseph

1. Joseph was hated by his brothers. Genesis 37:4, “And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.”
2. Joseph was thrown into a pit then sold as slave by his brothers. Genesis 37:24,27,
3. Joseph was bought by Potiphar, captain of the guard. Genesis 39:1.
  - a. Potiphar's wife falsely accused Joseph saying, “he came in unto me to lie with me...” Genesis 39:14.
  - b. Joseph was cast into prison. Genesis 39:20.
  - c. Joseph interpreted the dreams of the butler and baker. Then forgotten for two full years. Genesis 40.
  - d. Joseph endured and God blessed him. Genesis 41:37-43.
    1. Pharaoh said, “Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.”

2. Through the suffering and hardships of Joseph, God had saved Joseph and his family. Genesis 45:7,8, “ And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God...”

#### C. Paul

1. Acts 9:1-2, Saul was “breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord...”
2. After Jesus appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus, God told Ananias to tell Saul, “how great things he must suffer for my name’s sake.” Acts 9:16
3. Paul did suffer many hardships for the cause of Christ. II Corinthians 11:23-27, “ in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.”
4. Did Paul complain of these hardships? NO!
  - a. Colossians 1:23,24, “ If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister; Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church.”
  - b. Phil:3:8, “I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.”
5. Paul endured and exhorts Timothy to do the same. II Timothy 4:5-8, “ But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

#### D. Jesus

1. Jesus spoke of His suffering.
  - a. Luke 9:22, “ The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day.”
2. The Hebrew writer said in Hebrews 5:8,9, “Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.”
3. Hebrews 4:15, “ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.
4. Hebrews 9:12,26,28, “Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. So Christ was

once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

5. I Peter 3:18, "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit."
6. Jesus loved us so much He was willing to give up heaven, come to this earth, live a sinless life, pay the price of sin by suffering the death on the cross, for you and for me!

## **VI. REWARD OF ENDURANCE**

- A. As we said earlier, Revelation 2:10 tells us to, "be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."
- B. If we endure we will be with Jesus.
  1. Matthew 24:13, " But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.
  2. Galatians 6:9, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.
  3. II Timothy 2:3,12, "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us."
- C. II Timothy 4:7-8, Paul speaks of this reward when he said to the young evangelist Timothy "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."
- D. II Peter 1:10-11, "Wherefore, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall. For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."
- E. The book of Revelation is all about victory to him that overcometh.
  1. Revelation 3:5,12,21, " He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."
  2. Revelation 21:4, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."
  3. Revelation 22:1-5, "And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: and they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever."

## VII. CONCLUSION

- A. Endurance is a must for the Christian, if we want the prize. There are several things we have learned about endurance:
1. God expects us to endure.
  2. God has shown us how to endure.
  3. God has said that enduring will not be easy.
  4. God has given us examples of those who have endured.
  5. God has promised us a reward of heaven with Him, if we endure.
- B. May we all endure and be faithful servants so that, “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: and before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” Matthew 25:31-34
- C. To become a child of God and added to the church that Jesus died for, we must:
1. Hear Romans 10:17
  2. Believe Hebrews 11:6
  3. Repent Acts 17:30
  4. Confess Romans 10:9-10
  5. Baptized Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16
  6. God adds you to His church. Acts 2:47
  7. Then we must live faithfully for God. Revelation 2:10

**Endure!**