

# Endurance

Note: Very little is heard on the subject of "endurance" because it sounds like a lack of faith, lack of victory, lack of success.

HOWEVER, endurance is not a "lack of any of these things" but is an indication of the grace, courage, strength and faith on the part of the person under stress!

A COMMON MISCONCEPTION OF CHRISTIAN PEOPLE: IF WE POSSESS ENOUGH FAITH, WE WILL AUTOMATICALLY FIND A SUPERNATURAL ESCAPE FROM EVERY PROBLEM, SICKNESS, OR TRIAL.

\* BUT, God's Word teaches that some things must be endured. We forget that walking with God is a "VOCATION" not a "VACATION"!

Eph. 4:1 - "... walk worthy of the VOCATION wherewith ye are called..."

Vocation - specialized training, intense training (GREEK - klesis, kletos: high calling, heavenly calling, holy calling to a particular task.)

KEY VERSE: Hebrews 6:13-15 - (v. 15) - "And so, after he had PATIENTLY ENDURED, he obtained the promise."

"Hupomeno, Hupophero" - Greek - to bear up courageously under stress, suffering, (Matt. 10:22, Mark 13:13, Rom. 12:12, I Cor. 24:13).

"Makrothumeo" - to be long-tempered, long on patience, as is said of Abraham that he "patiently endured.." (Heb. 6:15)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ENDURE?

Look at Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego in the Book of Daniel 3:16-27.

"Upon whose bodies the fire had no power.." v. 27

GOD DELIVERED THEM "IN THE FIRE" AND NOT "FROM THE FIRE!" (endurance\*)

This was a great testimony to a heathen king and many others - v. 28-30

\*STUDY: I Cor. 10:14 - "Bear" is properly translated "endure"

NOTE: Only the strong, well-grounded, and deep-rooted will endure according to Mark 4:16-17.

SOME THINGS WE COULD BE CALLED UPON IN THIS LIFE TO "ENDURE"

## 1. Persecution

a. Church at Thessalonica was undergoing a time of persecution when Paul wrote his second epistle. -2 Thes. 1:4

b. Paul mentions some of his persecutions and reminds us that they who live godly in Christ will suffer the same -2 Tim. 3:11-12

2. Affliction - generally this means we face distress, tight places, hardships, sufferings.

a. Paul encouraged Timothy to endure afflictions -2 Tim. 4:5

b. Church received the Word in much affliction -I Thes. 1:6

c. Job's troubles, sickness, circumstances were called "afflictions" he had to endure these for some time before victory came. (Job 10:15; 30:16, and James 5:10-11)

d. Infirmities, reproaches, necessities, persecutions, distresses, along with a thorn in the flesh seemed to be Paul's plight, but he patiently endured by the "grace of God.." (2 Cor. 12:1-10)

OUR AFFLICTIONS ARE MANY (Ps. 34:19),  
but they are working for us a far more  
exceeding and eternal weight of glory -  
Romans 8:18, II Cor. 4:17.

\*Moses chose "afflictions with the people  
of God" over the "pleasures of sin for a  
season" -Hebrews 11:25

3. Hardness - means undergoing hardship  
that is brought upon us because we are a  
Christian.

a. Paul admonished Timothy to endure  
hardness as a good soldier -2 Tim. 2:3)

b. John Mark, a helper of Paul, wasn't able  
to "endure the hardships of the ministry" so  
he returned home. -Acts 12:25, 13:5-13.

4. Grief - from Greek word "LUPE" - sorrow,  
heartache, heaviness, sadness from false  
accusations, criticism, rejection by others.

a. Remember that Jesus was "a man of

sorrows, acquainted with grief..."

(Isa. 53:3-4)

b. READ: I Peter 2:19-20

I Peter 3:14,17 - "But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing."

Important: Read I Peter 4:14-16

5. Chastening - has to do with instruction, training, discipline.

a. God chastens us to keep us from being condemned with the world. (I Cor. 11:32)

\* Without chastening, we lose our sonship and become as illegitimate children in His sight.

\* Chastisement is never for our destruction

but for our good!

6. Temptation - THIS FALLS INTO TWO CATEGORIES:

1) An enticement to evil 2) A test or trial.

JAMES SAID THAT THE PERSON WHO  
ENDURES TEMPTATION IS BLESSED!  
(James 1:12)

\*GOD NEVER ENTICES US WITH EVIL.  
TEMPTATION IS NOT A SIN. SUCCUMBING  
AND GIVING IN TO IT IS!

\* Endure temptation if you are not  
delivered from it and victory will be yours! -  
I Cor. 10:13, James 5:10-11

THREE DEMANDS ARE LAID UPON US IF WE  
ARE TO BE HIS DISCIPLES -Luke 9:23

1. We must deny ourselves.

2. We must take up our cross daily.

3. We must follow Jesus Christ.

Galatians 6:14 - By the cross, we are  
"crucified unto the world" and the "world is  
crucified unto us."

NOTE: Those that endure to the end will be  
saved -Mat. 10:22

"CAN THINE HEART ENDURE, OR CAN THINE  
HANDS BE STRONG, IN THE DAYS THAT I  
SHALL DEAL WITH THEE?" -Ezek. 22:14.

"LOVE... ENDURETH ALL THINGS..." -I Cor.  
13:7